



# TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

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## Accepted MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

July 14, 2026

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

### Commission Members:

- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos not present
- Paul Deschaine
- Tedd Tramaloni - Select Board Member
- Luke Hanson - alternate
- Stratham Resident - Roy Byrnes

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

June Minutes accepted with one correction

### Community Power Updates

Charlie presented a summary of the new electricity supply rates from August 1 2026 to January 31 2027, taken from the CPCNH "Proposed Rates" report dated June 19, 2026. Residential supply default rates for Unitil, Eversource and Liberty were covered in the report. These are: Unitil – 14.348 cents/kwh, Eversource – 14.009, and Liberty – 15.835. The PUC allowed Eversource to include a full 12 month reconciliation adjustment of .914 cents/kwh in their new rate, but only allowed Liberty to include a small portion of theirs. The CPCNH supply rate for Stratham will be 15.344 cent/kwh or one cent over the comparable Unitil rate. Mike pointed out that while small, a 1 cent rate difference could equate to about \$226,000 per year for all Stratham Community Power users, or about \$78 per user per year.

It is not clear how long it will take for CPCNH to become competitive again but our best guess is it could take until mid 2028. During the next rate period, CPCNH will continue to improve internal capabilities, reduce borrowing costs and hire s Director of Operations. They have reduced their reserve charge from 2.0 cents/kwh to .67, and they predict that the reduced reserve charge will increase their overall reserves by between 0.2M to 10.0M with the variation caused by factors in the electricity supply market. These factors include charges by ISO NE, the cost of purchasing Renewable Energy Credits to meet the NH Renewable Portfolio Standard, and weather related costs.

The Energy Commission plans to update the Select Board during September for an updated analysis of the three possible actions (last presented in February 2026) that the Town could



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take to control residential electricity costs for Stratham residents. Other CPCNH member towns are looking at their options as well – including Hudson, Bow, and Epping. The Town has been clear that the reason it established Stratham Community Power and joined CPCNH was for residents to benefit from electricity supply rates that were anticipated to be lower than the Unitil default supply rate. This continues to be the Town's top priority. The presentation to the Select Board is planned to be available for residents to view remotely and will include historical information on how Stratham Community Power became more expensive than the Unitil default supply rate. Tedd and Roy emphasized that this presentation needs to be clear, and concise; and it will be discussed further at our August 11 meeting. Matt will invite Jackson Kaspari from CPCNH to join us.

**Municipal Solar** – Roy Byrnes read the meter today at 35,034 kwh which measures the power generated by the Police Station solar array for REC sales. Paul will read the meter next month.

**Community Education Topics** – Amy Farnham and Nickolas Metz from the Exeter Energy Committee have agreed to present their material on “Heat Pumps” to Stratham Residents. Charlie will coordinate timing with Amy and Nick along with Diane Smith of the Rec Department. Diane has suggested a mid September date.

**Stratham Memorial School construction project review** – Roy Byrnes asked whether the SMS School Board would consider adding solar to the School building. Roy will look at the benefits of the Solar Array on the Police Station with the intention of sharing it with the SMS Board. Roy will also look at the electricity usage at SMS and see if the Energy Commission should recommend that a solar installation should be considered by the SMS School Board.

**Capital Improvements** – The Town has sent out an RFP for a new Pavillion at Steven Park to provide shade and restroom facilities. Matt pointed out that the Pavillion could be an excellent application for solar and any power generation in excess of usage at the Pavillion could be connected to the nearby Public Works Department through a conduit installed a few years ago when the facility was repaved.

**Window Dressers** - Staphanie Marshall from the Exeter Energy Committee would like to update us on Window Dressers at our September meeting. **From the SEC November 2025 minutes:** The Exeter Energy Committee has once again partnered with the non-profit organization “Window Dressers” to bring low-cost Window Inserts to the Exeter area in January 2026. This year the program is expanded to include Exeter, Brentwood, East Kingston, Kensington, Newfields, and Stratham. So far, over 250 window inserts have been ordered, with one order from Stratham. The Exeter Energy Committee has asked for our help to get the word out and we propose to use the Board Newsletter, the Library Newsletter and “Stratham Talks” Facebook page. The Energy Commission voted to support the program.

Adjourned 7:30 PM

Submitted by Charlie Case