



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

VOICE (603) 773-4741 FAX (603) 775-0517

ACCEPTED MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

June 16, 2026

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

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

Stratham Resident - Roy Byrnes

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

May Minutes Accepted

Community Power Updates –

The Energy Commission is closely watching the price of electricity supply for the next six month period from August 1, 2026 to January 31, 2027. 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. It is recognized that CPCNH is the only electricity supplier that is dedicated to supporting customer energy interests at the State Level.

Unfortunately, CPCNH rates have been higher than the Unitil rate over the last three rate periods (from Feb 1, 2025 to July 31, 2026) as it rebuilds reserves lost when its cost of service has been greater than the rate charged to customers. The Energy Commission reported this situation to the Select Board in January 2026 along with options that include withdrawing from CPCNH. The Select Board decided at that time to wait until the Unitil and CPCNH supply rates were announced for the August 1 2026 to January 31 2027 period before taking action. Joe VanGombos has maintained contact with Freedom Energy as a possible alternate supplier for Stratham Community Power.

CPCNH's strategy is to become more competitive again in the upcoming rate periods, as it begins tapering reserve adders and utilities begin recovering their under collection losses. It is



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anticipated that rate comparisons will trend closer to parity. During the next rate period, CPCNH will continue to improve internal capabilities, and hire a Director of Operations.

The Unitil rate was announced just prior to the Energy Commission's June meeting at 14.348 cents per kwh. CPCNH is in the process of determining what its rate will be and will announce it on June 26th. The Energy Commission will update the Select Board when the new rates are known if any action may be needed. Tedd commented that the Energy Commission needs to be prepared to explain to residents reasons for a recommendation to the Select Board going forward. Stratham is developing improved ways of communicating with residents.

Municipal Solar – Joe VanGombos read the meter today at 31,025 kwh which measures the power generated by the Police Station solar array for REC sales. Roy Byrnes reported that he has gotten permission from the Police Station to study the Solar Installation and he will read the meter in July.

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.

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.

Capital Improvements – The Town will start converting Town Buildings to LED lighting in July.

Adjourned 7:30 PM

Submitted by Charlie Case