TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

VOICE (603) 772-4741 FAX (603) 775-0517

ACCEPTED MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

Sept 8, 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 – not present**
- **Luke Hanson - alternate**

Stratham Resident - Roy Byrnes – not present

Also Attending:
Stephanie Marshall – Exeter Energy Committee
Jennifer Kinsey – Window Dressers volunteer for Stratham

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

August Minutes were accepted

<u>Community Power Updates</u>

CPCNH plans to continue addressing challenges to achieve competitiveness as soon as possible and achieve their 120 day reserve target by 2030. They are continuing to take important steps to get there. However Henry Herndon (Executive Director) can't predict yet when they will again have a lower electricity supply rate than the Utilities, given the current issues affecting the market including changing requirements from the NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and weather related uncertainties.

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 Energy Commission plans to update the Select Board at their September 21, 2026 meeting with a recommendation to take no action If the CPCNH electricity supply rate is less than the Unitil rate for the six month period starting February 1, 2027. If the CPCNH rate is greater than the Unitil rate, then the recommendation is to start the process to withdraw from CPCNH. It is also recommended that the Select Board instruct CPCNH to include no new "refresh" customers starting now. There are some Towns who are waiting to join when the

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CPCNH rates are again lower than the Utilities. Also, the Town of Hudson has started the process to withdraw, and two others, Epping and Bow have indicated that they will also be withdrawing. Mike asked if CPCNH would consider setting up a special rate for Stratham to avoid having the Town withdraw.

Community Education Topics

-Presentation on Heat Pumps. Amy Farnham and Nick Metz from the Exeter Energy Committee will present their material on "Heat Pumps" to Stratham Residents on October 28 at 12:30 PM at the Municipal Center. Diane Smith from the Rec Department will coordinate advertising it and arrange a light lunch. A Stratham flyer was created based on the Exeter flyer and will be distributed. Matt will speak with Karen about funding for the light lunch to be provided. Mike noted that the flyer did not include Diane's contact information or a request to RSVP.

-Window Dressers – Stratham Resident Jennifer Kinsey and Stephanie Marshall from the Exeter Energy Committee updated us on the Window Dressers program. Jennifer will set up a demonstration window at the Municipal Center along with information Cards. She will also write up a brief description of the program for inclusion in the Select Board newsletter, and explain that the program is supported by both the Exeter Energy Committee and the Stratham Energy Commission. Paul explained that Karen has the Town responsibility for public assistance and would be a good resource to connect the program with those who need help reducing heat loss in their homes – thus reducing the cost to heat their homes. Paul also suggested that the Town Moderator might approve having Information Cards available at the Town election.

Municipal Solar – Mike read 41,456 kwh for the Police Station solar. Payment for RECs earned are being received for the Town. Paul explained that the cost to maintain the system can come from the Town's maintenance trust fund.

Adjourned 7:15 PM

Submitted by Charlie Case