



# TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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## APPROVED MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

April 14, 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

Not present: Paul Deschaine and Joe VanGombos

Stratham resident Roy Byrnes attended

Call to Order: 5:00 PM

March Minutes Accepted

Stratham Energy Commission meeting start time – The possibility of changing the start time of the monthly meeting from 6:00 to 5:00 was discussed and it was agreed to stay with our current start time of 6:00.

Membership Updates: We welcomed the new Select Board representative, Tedd Tramaloni. The Commission accepted a new Alternate Member, Luke Hanson – subject to Select Board approval. Resident Roy Burns attended and also expressed interest in becoming an Alternate Member. He is a retired engineer, worked at the Seabrook Station and has a home solar array.

Community Power Updates – Charlie will attend the CPCNH Annual Meeting in Concord on April 30<sup>th</sup>, and will contact Paul and Tedd for their possible attendance. It was reported that the Town's Community Power participation rate has increased from 71% to 76% due to the automatic CPCNH refresh which is done every three months to include new residents. A new resident who was recently added to Stratham Community Power did not understand that Community Power is an "Opt Out" program, meaning new customers are included unless they specifically request to join either Unitil's default supply or select another third party supplier. Proactively providing this information to new residents is important. The Select Board has established a new "Communication and Community Engagement Committee" to address issues like this. Mike asked if Stratham could "opt out" of the automatic refresh and it was



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determined that it could not. Joe VanGombos is continuing to follow up with possible alternate suppliers for Stratham Community Power.

**Municipal Solar** – Matt read the meter today at 21,746 kwh (last month’s baseline reading was 17,973 kwh) which measures the power generated by the Police Station solar array for REC sales. It may be possible to use an earlier baseline for REC sales to increase our total eligible kwh. For example, the reading on January 4, 2026 was 10,293. The readings for Q3/Q4 in 2025 may be available for our baseline as well. Charlie will read the meter prior to our May meeting.

**Community Education Topics** – Mike set up our first 2026 Community Education program - “Button Up New Hampshire” on March 31. The excellent program was successful with 31 attendees. Thanks to Diane Smith from the REC Dept who advertised it in the Rec Department newsletter and organized the meeting. The 76ers also advertised the program. Additional topics that could be of interest to residents include: EV vehicles, Heat Pumps, Solar Electric, weatherization, electric rates and likely new CPCNH features such as “time of day rates”.

The Exeter Energy Committee held their first 2026 Community Education program on March 31 on Heat Pump technology presented by Chair Amy Farnham and Member Nicholas Metz. Charlie attended the excellent presentation. The topic is one that we believe Stratham residents would be interested in as well. Charlie will contact Amy and Nick to see if they would be willing to do the same presentation for Stratham.

**Clean Energy NH asked Stratham to join a proposed “Letter of Support” for SB538** (titled Enduring Long-Term Value for Municipal Renewable Energy Projects) to be sent to Senator Kevin Avard, Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The Energy Commission voted to support the proposed letter. The Select Board agreed and a letter was sent, signed by Select Board member Allison Knab and Matt O’Keefe. This bill extends a 20 year term of eligibility in the 2.0 tariff for “Municipal Group hosts” and other political subdivision energy projects, and removes uncertainty for how long projects are eligible to receive net metering compensation.

**Stratham Memorial School construction project review** – A design concern with the new boilers has been raised. This will not have an impact on the Unitil rebate review.

**Capital Improvements** - Converting Town Buildings to LED lighting was discussed. This subject was raised a few years ago with documented audit results. Matt will contact Trevor Batchelder (new Public Works Department director) to be part of the study. Resident Roy Byrnes volunteered as well and will be included.

Adjourned 6:00 PM