



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

Aug 11, 2026

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

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

Also Attending:

Henry Herndon – CPCNH Executive Director
Jackson Kaspari – CPCNH Director of Member Services

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

July Minutes were accepted

Community Power Updates

Henry Herndon and Jackson Kaspari updated us on CPCNH's progress and the outlook for future rates. CPCNH has made progress per their plan since last January – including eliminating their overall negative balance, hiring a Director of Finance (Rachida Mahrouda) and a Director of Power Operations (Bill Bullock). They explained that it is difficult to predict when CPCNH will again have a lower rate than the Utilities default rates. The biggest factors are the requirements the NH Public Utilities Commission (PUC) places on the Utilities for default rates that are lower than the Utilities analysis shows, and to purchase power at 50% fixed and 50% on the Spot Market, a requirement that potentially risky due to the winter weather conditions. As a result, the PUC can effectively manipulate the power market. CPCNH has opted to be more conservative by purchasing electricity at 80% to 100% fixed.

Henry and Jackson also reviewed the process for the Town of Hudson to withdraw from CPCNH.

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 take to control residential electricity costs for Stratham residents. The Town has been clear



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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.

Municipal Solar – Payment for RECs earned by the Police Station solar was received - 12 MWH at \$35 per MWH

Plug In Solar – Joe VanGombos reviewed this new program which allows a small stand alone solar unit to plug directly to a house outlet.

Community Education Topics

-Presentation on Heat Pumps. Amy Farnham and Nickolas Metz from the Exeter Energy Committee have agreed to 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.

-Window Dressers - Stephanie Marshall from the Exeter Energy Committee will update us on Window Dressers at our September meeting.

Stratham Memorial School construction – Roy Byrnes looked at the benefits of the Solar Array on the Police Station and shared his analysis. 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 – Bids were received for the proposed Pavillion at Stevens Park for \$400K more than approved at Town Meeting. The project is on hold.

Commission Membership Updates – Matt will end his Commission membership when his term expires. Joe VanGombos has agreed to take on the chair position.

Adjourned 7:35 PM

Submitted by Charlie Case