



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

January 13, 2026

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos
- Joe Anderson - Select Board Member
- Paul Deschaine

Also attending: Tim Roache – Town Administrator

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

December minutes approved with corrections

November minutes updated

Community Power – We believe that CPCNH has had a large positive impact to reduce the cost of electricity supply in New Hampshire, and as a result of those efforts the competition scenario has changed. We understand that electricity supply pricing for all suppliers is rising for a variety of reasons including increased charges from the New England Independent System Operator (ISO-NE), cost of natural gas, increased need for electricity, increasing state requirements for renewable energy and the uncertainty of weather caused impacts. During the last two years CPCNH faced unanticipated costs and is rebuilding reserves over the next two years. CPCNH will likely be more expensive than the Unitil default rate in the short term but anticipates being lower cost again as new initiatives are implemented. The Energy Commission plans to make a recommendation to the Select Board soon on both a short and long term strategy to keep supply costs as low as possible. Short term options include making sure that customers understand how to switch to another supplier if they want; and switching Stratham Community Power to a different supplier.

CPCNH has offered to meet with us to add further perspective. It was noted that CPCNH has not hired a new CEO or a proposed COO despite a lengthy search process. Henry Herndon continues to be the Acting Executive Director in the interim. Calpine has extended terms through June.

The Energy Commission Annual Report was submitted to the Town.



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Web Site Update – The Town is updating all web sites. The Energy Commission has combined the Community Power and Commission sites and added a link to the DOE to make it easier for electric customers to find alternate suppliers.

Municipal Solar – ReVision Energy (installer of the Police Station Solar which the Town now owns) has notified the Town that they plan to remove their capability that keeps track of the power eligible for selling RECs. There are several options for the Town to collect and submit this data to allow REC sales. The lowest cost option involves a having a person take a photo of the meter on the Police Station on the first of each month and send the photo to a company authorized to sell the RECs for the Town. We have been contacted by a company that can collect the data for us, and we are waiting for a proposal.

Power for the Municipal Facilities has been supplied by a coalition set up by the Rockingham Planning Commission but that contract has ended. The facilities will now use the Unitil default supply.

Community Education Topics – Matt will follow up with the Rec Department for scheduling the first proposed Community Education session on Electric Vehicles during 2026. Additional topics that could be of interest to residents include: Heat Pumps, Solar Electric, weatherization, electric rates and questions for likely new CPCNH features such as “time of day rates”. The Energy Commission has sponsored the educational “Button Up New Hampshire” in the past.

Stratham Memorial School construction project review – The new boilers have been installed, and the roof has been replaced with two inches of insulation added. Mike Welty continues to work closely with the key construction people to ensure that energy conservation features are being incorporated. Reps for Unitil are reviewing the design details to support an anticipated rebate.

Lane Property at the Traffic Circle – This property was gifted to the Town along with funds to pay for renovations including energy savings. It was noted that NH Saves may pay for an energy audit and pay for some of the energy improvements

Adjourned 7:15 PM