



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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DRAFT MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING

May 12, 2026

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe VanGombos
- Paul Deschaine
- Luke Hansom - alternate
- Tedd Tramaloni - Select Board Member

Stratham Resident - Roy Byrnes

Call to Order: 6:00 PM

April Minutes Accepted with correction

Membership Updates – Luke Hanson has been added as an alternate member. He will get a letter from the Town with directions to take a formal oath of office. Roy Byrnes would like to become an alternate member when there is an opening, and he plans to attend meetings as an interested resident.

Community Power Updates – Paul and Charlie attended the CPCNH Annual Meeting on April 30th and reported highlights. They also covered some CPCNH background for Luke and Roy. CPCNH membership meetings are typically held twice a year in April and October.

CPCNH hired “The Energy Authority” (TEA) to conduct an audit, particularly for problems surrounding the winter of 2024/2025, and recommended seven actions for CPCNH to take going forward. Six of those have been adopted already with the seventh in process. CPCNH should improve hedge planning allowing CPCNH to be able to take advantage of rapid market fluctuations – which requires the ability to do quick approvals (a challenge for CPCNH). TEA found that data silos were another problem. Key service providers, Ascend and Calpine, modeled load predictions independently and risks were missing from their reports. TEA indicated that CPCNH needs to do a better job of managing the service providers.

TEA determined that the reserve drawdown during 2024/2025 was between \$8.6 M and \$12.0 M. Rates were set below forecast costs. The Executive Director at the time contracted with a



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company which intended to set up a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to effectively cover hedging needs. The company failed to do so and left CPCNH in a difficult position. It was too late to arrange hedging per the CPCNH Risk Management policy and CPCNH was unprotected from the unpredictable spot market pricing which was very high during this period.

Forward looking for CPCNH – Will be period of stabilization, improvement of internal capabilities, hire both a Finance Director and a Director of Operations.

The CPCNH Board will meet on June 26 to set rates for the August 1 to January 31 period. Unitil is expected to announce their rates on June 12. It was noted that the NHPUC has not determined how the utilities can recoup their previous under collections which would likely affect utility default supply rates. The Energy Commission will postpone their monthly meeting from Tuesday June 9 to Tuesday June 16 so that the Community Power discussion can include the important upcoming Unitil rate data. Tedd commented that the Energy Commission needs to be prepared to explain to residents reasons for a recommendation to the Select Board going forward.

Municipal Solar – Charlie read the meter today at 25,551 kwh which measures the power generated by the Police Station solar array for REC sales.

Community Education Topics – 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.

Stratham Memorial School construction project review – The design concern mentioned last month with the new boilers has been resolved. The Unitil rebate review has been completed with a planned rebate of \$69K from NH Saves to be paid when the work is completed.

Capital Improvements - Converting Town Buildings to LED lighting was discussed. This subject was raised a few years ago with documented audit results. Matt contacted Trevor Batchelder (new Public Works Department director) and it was decided that any action will be put on hold for now due to other priorities.

Adjourned 7:30 PM

Submitted by Charlie Case