



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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

MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING May 9, 2023

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

Not Present: Joe VanGombos

Others attending: Nate Merrill – from Stuart Farm,
Mark Connors – Town Planner

Call to Order: 6:05 PM

April 11, 2023 minutes approved

Rockingham Planning Commission – Electric rate for years 2 and 3 of the current 3 year contract is not firm yet, but is expected to be within 9 and 14 cents per Kwh

Button Up Workshop presented by NHSaves – a total of 30 people attended the presentation on April 20, and in addition 21 people watched the program on Exeter TV including Nate Merrill. He commented that the advice given that emphasized insulation and sealing was good. The Button Up presentation is at www.plymouthenergy.org. Information on third party electricity suppliers was covered by the Energy Commission with options listed at <https://www.puc.nh.gov/Consumer/ResidentialSuppliers.html>. The Energy Commission won't recommend third party suppliers.

Nate Merrill From the Stuart Farm is starting to look at installing solar panels on their barns to supply power particularly for the large ventilation fans that run 24/7 from June to September. He is looking at various funding sources: the 30% federal tax credit, a grant program that could provide 50% funding for "on farm" use, funding from the Inflation Reduction Act and possibly funds from the USDA. He is also looking at possibilities from Net Metering. ReVision Energy will visit Stuart Farm on Friday May 12. It was noted that ReVision installed the solar panels on the Stratham Police Station.



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Town Planner Mark Connors is setting up a committee with representatives from the Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Heritage Commission and the Energy Commission to make recommendations on ground mount solar regulations by November 2023. Mark suggested there may be opportunities to simplify applications for solar installations in general. Issues on ground mount were initially raised as a result of an early installation on Stratham Heights Rd, and later at Stratham Greene. Roof solar has been more straightforward. One example issue to be addressed is how to deal with land use with Conservation Easement limitations. Joe VanGombos will be the Energy Commission representative to this committee.

Adjourned 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted - Charlie Case