



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE STRATHAM NH 03885

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Draft MINUTES FOR STRATHAM ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING June 8, 2021

Meeting held at the Stratham Municipal Center

Commission Members:

- Michael Ream
- Matthew O'Keefe
- Charlie Case
- Michael Welty
- Joe Van Gombos

All Commission members were present

7:00 PM Call to Order

1. Minutes from May 11, 2021 were approved

2. Municipal Solar Projects

SEC Committee member Joe Van Gombos and David Peck (President of the Hills at Crockett Farm Condo Association) spoke after the May SEC meeting to follow up on our discussion about the condo association's options to change from 18 individual meters to a single master meter. The Crockett Farm Condo Association first became interested in a Solar installation to offset the \$13K they spend each year for electricity to power well pumps, septic pumps and decorative fountains. Power is supplied from Unitil via 18 electric meters and it was found that the majority of the \$13K covers fixed fees for the 18 meters. The Association believes they could save \$10K per year by combining the 18 meters into a single unit. Joe Van Gombos is a Senior Energy Efficiency Program Coordinator at Unitil and had asked his contacts there to clarify meter options for Crockett Farm. Joe found that at the time Crockett Farm was built, Unitil installed underground lines to supply the 18 meters in question (as well as the lines that supply each residence) and it owns that infrastructure. While it may be possible for Crockett Farm to pay for a changeover to a single master meter, it would be very expensive to install the new infrastructure including new underground lines.



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3.Button Up NH Presentation: Mike Welty spoke with Ted Stiles from Yankee Thermal Imaging to get a Zoom session scheduled for Stratham residents. Ted reported that funding for weatherization of homes and Button Up presentations has run out. Until sent in a new proposal for a large increase to this budget covering 2021 to 2023. It is expected that a budget will be funded at a lower level than requested.

4.Community Power: As discussed at our May meeting, Community Power seems to be moving ahead in NH. Community Power for Towns is intended to include municipal, businesses and residences. The success of Community Power hinges on Legislative Policy and House Bill 315 (which covers Community Power) is now being worked on. It was reported that the Town of Exeter has signed the Community Power Coalition's Joint Power Agreement. Their Select Board approved this action at their May 10, 2021 meeting and also established an Energy Aggregation Committee to investigate community power aggregation for Exeter. It was also reported that Keene has also signed on to the Community Power Coalition and has selected "Standard Power" as their broker.

5.New Business: The possibility of adding new EV charging stations at the Municipal Center was discussed and it was noted that both Newmarket and Durham libraries have free charging stations while Portsmouth has charging stations in their "pay" parking lots. Mike Welty will ask David Moore whether the Town is envisioning buying electric vehicles in the future as part of the Capital Equipment plan. It was noted that UNH has a fleet of eight Nissan Leaf vehicles.

Adjourned 8:05 PM

Next Meeting: Tuesday July 13, 2021 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Charlie Case