

Town of Exeter NH Energy Committee

MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2026; 3:30 PM

Wheelwright Room, Town Offices

Attendees:

Name	Present	Absent
Amy Farnham	X	
Stephanie Marshall	X	
Cliff Sinnott	X	
Kristen Murphy	X	
Nicolas Metz	X	
Mike Drunsic	X	
Julie Gilman	X	
Danica Caron		X
Abigail Manning	X	
Charlie Case (guest)	X	

1. Call to Order 3:31
2. Public Comment
 - Guest from Stratham Energy Committee (Charlie Case)
3. Approval of Minutes – Stephanie moved to approve December meeting minutes; Nick seconded; unanimously approved
4. Window Dresser Program – Exeter Build for 2025-26
 - Materials arriving today (1/14)
 - Training on 1/15; build kick-off on 1/16
 - ~250 windows; 39 customers
 - Still looking for more volunteers
 - May still need a lunch on Thursday 1/22, if this extra day is needed
 - Stephanie suggested to Julie to have the Select Board members visit during the build
5. “Earth to Exeter”
 - Next E2E for Energy Comm is 1/16
 - Amy suggested doing one on Community Power; Kristen offered to pull something together simply pointing readers to the latest rate information with a brief message saying the town will be reviewing the material and considering options going forward.
 - Next one is 2/13; deadline is 2/11

- Mike suggested an update about performance of the landfill solar project
 - Push this to March
- Nick suggested something for heat pump education
 - Amy and Nick will connect first week of February to draft this
- Julie suggested one about legislative updates
- All agreed to move forward with article for February on heat pump education event and table solar project performance and legislative updates as options for future posts.

6. Community Power Update, meeting w Freedom Energy Logistics

- CPCNH announced rates for next 6 months starting Feb 1
- Rates have increased from 13.7 to 14.9 c/kwh
- State utility default rates have increased as well, but the increase is much smaller than CPCNH on a percentage basis
- Gap between Unitil and CPCNH has widened; does not seem likely that CPCNH rates will decrease in near future
- Reserves are largest contributor to differential between CPCNH and Unitil
- Important communication points:
 - Rate payers can choose another supplier
 - Town can opt for another default supplier
 - CPCNH offering to come meet to discuss
 - CPCNH is driving default suppliers to reduce rates
 - CPCNH potentially offering service to notify customers who opt out if CPCNH rates go down below default utility rates
- Charlie Case (Stratham Energy Committee member)
 - CPCNH has done a lot of good stuff to help drive rates down
 - Calpine is no longer providing management services to CPCNH which may result in savings for CPCNH.
 - Not likely that CPCNH will be better than Unitil in the long run
 - Stratham is considering changing default supplier
- Amy – what happened that created the situation where CPCNH cannot be cheaper than Unitil
 - Multiple factors at play
 - Rules have changed
- Are there other values that CPCNH offers that make it worthwhile?
- CPCNH has a credibility issue – as a town, we have to be very careful (as does CPCNH) regarding what we say going forward.
- Cliff suggested maintaining connection between Exeter/Stratham committees; Charlie offered to keep coming to our meetings
- Cliff asked Julie about how to address CPCNH developments with select board
 - Cliff will coordinate with CPCNH on arranging a meeting with the EC (tentatively aiming for 1/28 at 3:30) and coordinate with Julie on arranging a subsequent meeting with the Selectboard.

7. High School news

- Planning future meetings

- Working on writing letters and conducting out reach to other clubs

8. EECBG project (Jack Frost) Update

- Still going strong
- Work ongoing
- Signage has been slow to be deployed; this will be key to getting more participation; people often don't trust; time lag is a challenge

9. Education Series

- Nick has pulled some material together and engaged library regarding logistics
- Starting with discussion on mini-splits, heat pumps
- Is there a need/opportunity to get Exeter TV involved
- Need ideas for catchy name (Power Hour?)
- Other topics – batteries, PV, Wind
- Kristen offered to help with coordination
- Looking at March/April for first event and then end of each quarter thereafter

10. Annual Report

- Report is complete and will be going off to the printer soon

11. Other Business / Follow up / Energy News

12. Adjourn - 4:46 pm