

Town of Exeter NH Energy Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 10, 2026; 3:30 PM
Wheelwright Room, Town Offices

Present - Amy Farnham, Cliff Sinnott, Nicholas Metz, Stephanie Marshall, Mike Drunsic, Kristen Murphy, Julie Gilman, Abby Manning, Cadance Guerdat

1. Meeting called to order by Amy at 3:33 pm
2. Public Comment - none
 - a. Charlie Case from Stratham attended
3. Approval of Minutes from May meeting - Stephanie moved to approve, Nick seconded; unanimously approved
4. High School Notes
 - a. Introduction to Cadance Guerdat - new representative; junior (rising senior) at EHS
 - b. Talking to herpetologist about getting some turtle crossing signs put up
 - c. No Environmental Science course next year
5. Unitil funds for municipal projects
 - a. Audit underway at library, DPW, and Rec
 - b. Lacking clarity regarding what incentives are available, and, thus, what can be enhancements can be committed to at this point;
 - c. Facilities director position at SAU is open again
 - d. NHMA determined that if upgrades are 10% on-bill financing there is no requirement to go through CIP approval process
6. Power Hour Event Report & Plans for Next Quarter
 - a. Next event - June 16th, 6:30 at Library - Discussion of electric bills / CPCNH
 - i. Nick has about half of the presentation complete; will circulate for review/comment
 - ii. Nick and Cliff to present
 - b. Future options: Wind Energy (Tentatively September)
7. Green Minute for May
 - a. Will go out May 20th, need to deliver content to Bob Lowecki by Tuesday (Kristen to confirm)
 - b. Use flyer for Power Hour (Nick to provide to Kristen)
8. Community Power Plans for Select Board Presentation
 - a. Nick and Cliff attended last select board meeting; board is still supportive of participation on CPCNH
 - b. Discussion focused on why rates are higher than Unitil's rates; discussed options for opting out / opting up
 - c. No current rationale for leaving CPCNH as a community; support for non-rate benefits of CPCNH
 - d. About 2 cents worth of undercollections in Unitil rates; Unitil had balancing over/under collections
 - e. Eversource has \$38M in undercollections from latest rate period
 - f. Likely won't have updated CPCNH rates before the next Power Hour

- g. Committed at meeting to keeping current rate information front and center and forwarding information when new rates are set; currently the information is somewhat buried so need to make easier to find
- h. Nick Devonshire has stepped down from his role as Town Rep to CPCNH; Select Board will select a replacement based on recommendation from Energy Committee; Nick and Cliff are both potentially interested - Energy Committee will revisit and make recommendation next meeting (July).

9. Jack Frost

- a. DOE grant combined with NH Saves funding
- b. Target to cover 200 homes; currently at 37 homes with installs either ongoing or complete
- c. Doing a sign-up/information event with Resilient Building at Deep Meadow Variety, 5:30 on June 16th
- d. Still making progress, but slowly
- e. Barriers related to lack of trust and apprehension from many communities
- f. Meeting with Resilient Building on June 16th

10. Green Minute

- a. Air conditioning turn-in/rebate event through NH Saves; Epping event is June 20
- b. Green Minute will go out June 17th; Amy to put something together
- c. Cliff suggested including a bit about new electric rates upcoming

11. Other Business / Follow up / Energy News

- a. Stephanie to start coordinating for Window Dressers; Cliff suggested coordinating outreach in Stratham through Charlie and the Stratham EC; Stephanie suggested exploring some options for signage for Window Dressers
- b. Stephanie moved to authorize up to \$300 to make poster for Window Dressers; seconded by Cliff and unanimously approved
- c. Amy attended Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee meeting; they use a newsletter to communicate with the community
- d. Charlie asked if we could replicate the heat pump Power Hour presentation for Stratham residents; Charlie and Nick will coordinate day/time

12. Next meeting July 8

13. Adjourn - meeting adjourned 4:32