Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2025

Note: Draft minutes are subject to review, correction and approval by the Committee. Review and approval of minutes generally takes place at the next regularly scheduled committee meeting.

Call to Order—The meeting of the Swanzey Energy Commission was called to order at 1:15 pm by Chair Audette. Present: Bob Audette, Barbara Skuly, Cheri Domina.

Absent: Steve Russell

Minutes

Skuly made a motion to approve the June 9 minutes. Audette seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

Municipal Building Audits—Skuly said that Northeast Air Sealing has been recommended to do sealing work needed in the audited buildings. Skuly has emailed them. Do we need an RFP? Eversource will pay 35-50% of the cost of work but we need to get a quote first from NAS. Joe DiRusso was concerned about where the town will get the remainder of the funds to pay for it. Skuly has investigated the operating budget for Whitcomb Hall and Carpenter Home; Whitcomb Hall may have some money available in the budget. Our committee had $1,500 budgeted for an audit that went unspent last year—do we still have access to that? Stratton Library has its own trustees and budget, and they approved weatherization at their last meeting, Skuly said.

Skuly has contacted the Whitcomb Hall committee (Mike Gomarlo, chair; Sharon Greatbatch, VC) and shared the audit, but hasn't heard any feedback. Can we contact them again and assume no reply means go ahead with repairs?

Allyce Romaneck at Honeybee Hollow Childcare in the Carpenter Home could use help with weatherization, Skuly said, but the building's budget for the town is in the red.

Draft Solar Ordinance & Revision's Airport Solar Array

Is the existing ordinance what we want? Looking at Revision's proposed project at the airport, they are applying for variances in two zones. There would be a 13.5-acre array in the Rural/Ag zone, which qualifies as a commercial size project in the draft ordinance. In the Residence zone, the project is 8 acres, which would be called a small scale project. Both of these would require special exceptions, not variances, under the proposed ordinance. But would this be considered one project or two under the ordinance?

Would Swanzey be able to use any of the power? How will this benefit the town? The airport is one intended beneficiary, but the other is "Other municipal electric accounts." Does that just mean Keene?

Community Power Contract—Audette reported that Swanzey signed a two-year contract at 11.1 cents for the default rate. Eversource's newest rate is 11.19 cents. Good Energy will send out postcards in September to let people know. Do we have a role to play?

DRAFT

Clean Energy NH Membership—We agreed to renew, and Audette will ask the Town Administrator to pay the bill.

Next meeting: August 11, 1 pm

Adjournment: Domina moved, Russell seconded, all in favor, adjourned 2:10 pm.

DRAFT