Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for September 8, 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 1:07 pm by Chair Audette. Present: Bob Audette, Barbara Skuly, Cheri Domina, Steve Russell.

Minutes

Skuly made a motion to approve the August 11 minutes. Audette seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

EV Program—Russell spoke about a program he's co-presenting at the Chesterfield Library, Sept. 18 at 6:30 pm.

Budget—Clean Energy NH dues not paid yet. Audette said we have money left over from last year's small budget. We did not make a request for last year. We need to decide what to ask for next year. What is the deadline?

Clean Energy NH—They have updated their list of funding sources and are offering Local Energy Action "Need to Knows." Audette spoke about upcoming webinars on residential tax credits and more. He wants to encourage town officials and members to watch. He said he will watch the one on the new solar zoning guide. Skuly mentioned we should get two free tickets to the Sept. 25 energy conference with our membership. There will be a NH Energy Summit Sept. 15 in Concord, but CENH is not sponsoring—no info available yet online.

Solar Ordinance—Russell said he talked to Assistant Town Planner Stephon Mehu, he has a draft which he brought to the Planning Board, and "they had issues." Audette said he will talk to the Board Sept. 25 and get more details.

Revision Airport Solar Array—The ZBA approved the variance for the array; it's going to the Planning Board next.

Municipal Building Audits—Nothing new to report. Northeast Sealing will come Sept. 30 to look at Whitcomb Hall, Carpenter Home and Stratton Library and give estimates; Skuly will attend.

Town Fleet Review—Russell said the town staff uses three 2017 Ford Explorers (old police vehicles) and a 2018 Taurus. Discussed the expense of operating the older cars; staff doesn't like driving them and often takes their own vehicles and collects mileage. Russell printed a comparison from fueleconomy.gov for these cars vs. newer hybrids/EVs. Next step is to ask Selectmen for permission to do a study of our staff cars. Russell said he'd get on their agenda, and Audette said he'd come too. Russell would still like to meet with the police chief to discuss EVs; Peterborough and towns in MA have EVs for police cars.

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Solar Round Tables—Audette suggested we do "Solar Coffee" meetings where people can get together and discuss their different experiences installing solar at their homes; people w/o solar could come to listen and learn as well. Should we hold during a regular meeting or on a weeknight?

Legislators—When should we ask them to attend? We need to know what to discuss.

Next meeting: October 13, 1 pm

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

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