Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for November 10, 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 Barbara Skuly. Present: Barbara Skuly, Cheri Domina, Steve Russell. Also present: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Planner; Sly Karasinski, Cheshire District 10 New Hampshire House of Representatives

Absent: Bob Audette

Minutes
Russell made a motion to approve the September 8 minutes. Skuly seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

Sly Karasinski, State Rep—Discussed energy programs at State level. Karasinski said that NH has a new 10-year energy plan, incorporating all types of energy. He likes that it includes nuclear power now; developers have an ability to do "pocket nuclear" developments. He also felt that having no natural gas in NH is "killing us." We discussed hydrogen tech as well.

Another bill, House 672 was passed and signed that impacts crypto-mining facilities among others. Someone can construct a facility off-grid, using their own power station now.

Discussed the end of vehicle inspections—saves taxpayers money, Karasinski said, but Russell wondered at what cost to safety and environment.

Karasinski said a committee is studying withdrawal from the New England ISO; felt there was a question of fairness, since we are a small state. He suggested it might be better to share power with Canada, and bring in a pipeline.

Sly suggested we visit www.gc.nh.gov – General Court website – to look up bills of interest, starting in Jan. with the new session.

Discussed some of the issues we had listed earlier with CENH: Net metering needs to be more beneficial. Utility has to be committed to smart meters; VT has them in every home, and apps for phones; there are limits on who can use the power from Revision's proposed array at the airport; Eversource is behind on connections and not very responsive, and Swanzey's Solar Garden project failed because the cost for connection doubled, due to Eversource line issues. In other states, state funds help pay for interconnection costs; Karasinski didn't favor that idea. Solar is the fastest and cheapest energy supply to build, and NH should support it more, we said.

Solar Ordinance—Russell said we need to meet with the Planning Board. Mehu said the ordinance would not be on the next warrant in March; 2027 would be better. He thinks the ordinance needs a bit of reworking. He said the town is hiring a firm to audit all our ordinances soon, so 2027 would be a good time to get a solar ordinance in. Russell and Mehu both said they are working with SolSmart.

Town Fleet Review & EVs/Chargers—Russell said he asked CEO Chris Levy for a review. Discussed old police cars again: town hall staff use 2; Levy has one; Rec. Dept. has one.

Russell said he's involved in working with Revision Solar on potential EV charging sites in the region—four fast chargers. Discussed grocery stores in Swanzey as potential sites. Mt. Caesar Library charges $2/hour to use their charger now, but it's slow, he said.

Swanzey Uncovered—Will Audette write something? Domina will check with him. Could include EV program at library (see below) and an update on the solar project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Can we do a tour in the spring at the plant to show off the panels?

Community Power update—Residents received a mailing recently detailing the new power contract prices. We need to update our web page on the town site and link to the Community Power Page (which has been updated). Domina will look into it.

Clean Energy NH dues—Did Audette pay them? Mehu thinks so.

EV Program—Russell presented a program at the Chesterfield Library, Sept. 18. About ten attendees. He's considering offering the program in Swanzey; will talk to Library trustees. Can we put that in Swanzey Uncovered?

CPACER Program—Mehu will watch a webinar on this on Thursday, going over CPacer's Smart Solar Zoning. Audette also attended one recently, and Skuly reviewed. CPacer stands for Community Property Assessed Clean Energy & Resiliency. Program allows private business to borrow funds to upgrade a building for energy efficiency and clean energy. It's a privately-funded loan program. We would need an ordinance to take advantage of it. Loan can be over 30 years and stays with the property; amount can be up to 1/3 of the appraised value of the building. Energy and water projects are supported. Apartment buildings (5+ units) are also covered. A bill in the legislature now would allow approval of this ordinance by the Selectboard rather than a town meeting. Details and a sample ordinance are online. *Add to next agenda.

Municipal Buildings & Audits—Northeast Sealing came Sept. 30 to look at Whitcomb Hall, Carpenter Home and Stratton Library and give estimates. Skuly said they should get back to us by end of Nov. Carpenter Home is covered by the Lucy Carpenter Trust, Sly said; Selectmen need to vote to expend funds. Mehu did a health inspection of the building recently; he said they are looking for state funds to remove some walls and do lead remediation when they do. It's hard for Allyce Romaneck to get grant funding when the daycare does not own the building. Stratton Library is getting mini-splits; they have had some water leakage issues. Skuly said she's had no word from the Whitcomb Hall Committee.

DPW building—discussed whether solar panels could go on new addition. Mehu said he would ask Joe DiRusso.

Next meeting: December 8, 1 pm

Adjournment: Domina moved, Russell seconded, all in favor, adjourned 2:40 pm.

DRAFT