Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for January 12, 2026

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 1:04 pm by Chair Audette. Present: Robert Audette, Barbara Skuly, Cheri Domina, Steve Russell. Also present: Stephon Mehu, Assistant Planner.

Minutes

Skuly made a motion to approve the November 10, 2025 minutes. Russell seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

Legislative update—Sens Fenton and Faulkner (maybe) are scheduled to talk to us at our next meeting. Russell said he got a 51-page work plan for the next legislative session. CENH is monitoring 41 bills in their online legislative tracker. Mehu said he is participating in a NH Municipal Assoc. legislative policy work group this spring.

Budget—Audette said we paid $300 to CENH for 2025 dues in Sept. When are 2026 dues due? We only have $250 left in our budget. Is it too late to request more? Budget meeting is Tuesday, Jan. 13.

CPACER Program—Allows private business to borrow funds to upgrade a building for energy efficiency and clean energy. It's a privately-funded loan program. The town would need to adopt an ordinance to take advantage of it. Audette wondered if there is a residential version of the program. The town could create a CPACER district; or we could just make the whole town eligible. Should we ask the town to do it? Mehu said EDAC has discussed it. Mehu said he wants to talk to SWRPC about it; they have a sample ordinance. We'd need a warrant item, which wouldn't happen until 2027, unless the legislature changes the law to allow Selectboard to approve the ordinance. Mehu said he'd alert us if we need to act.

New DPW building—Can the proposed new building handle solar panels? Mehu showed a basic design; hasn't solidified yet. Audette is going to the budget meeting tomorrow; Skuly suggested we recommend including a municipal solar project on the building—at least engineering it to accommodate one. The DPW could then charge electric vehicles, and it could power municipal buildings.

> **Russell moved we support our chair bringing this resolution:** The Swanzey Energy Commission supports design and engineering to accommodate solar panels on the roof of the new Public Works Building on Pine Street, to help meet current and future energy needs of the municipality and enhance Swanzey's energy resilience. **Skuly seconded. All in favor.**

Municipal Buildings & Audits—Northeast Sealing's estimate came in much higher than the NH Saves auditor (Margaret from SEEDS) suggested. She didn't want to recommend anyone else due to work quality, and it took a long time to get their estimate. Carpenter Home estimate was $55,000. With the NH Saves program, the town would cover 35-50% of the cost. Mehu had met with the owner of Honeybee Hollow Childcare, Allyce Romaneck; lots of major problems in the building. Snow blowing in

one of the doors. Mehu said there will be a question about long-term leases on the warrant; that could help Romaneck get grants like CDBG funding. Domina said she'd ask Richard Scaramelli about the Carpenter Fund—how much is in it and how is it administered, and could it fund improvements to energy efficiency. We'll sit tight on Whitcomb Hall for a bit. Should we meet with Romaneck?

Town Fleet Review & EVs/Chargers—Russell said still no reply from Chris Levy; he'll follow up. Mehu said he could provide a list. What's coming up that we should know about for grant opportunities?

Russell noted that Swanzey's residents own 40 electric cars; Peterborough 56 and Keene over 100.

Community Power / Website update—Domina said the Community Power page is updated, but there's no link from our commission page—she'll ask Christine to add that. Eversource rates are changing in February; our new rates went up slightly.

Goals/Objectives/Activities for 2026

1. Open house at the wastewater treatment plant and look at solar panels. Discuss questions of capacity and self-sufficiency and development on Rte. 10. Who will talk to Joe DiRusso about it?
2. Solar Coffee Hour—at Mt. Caesar Library? Audette will look into who has solar in town. Could the town create a list?
3. Fleet Review
4. Energy efficiency work on municipal buildings
5. Solar Ordinance
6. Community solar locations

Next meeting: February 9. Agenda: Solar ordinance review so SWRPC can audit it this year.

Adjournment: Audette moved, Domina seconded, all in favor, adjourned 3:05 pm.

DRAFT