Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for February 9, 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 1:08 pm by Chair Audette. Present: Robert Audette, Barbara Skuly, Cheri Domina. Also present, Sen. Donovan Fenton

Absent: Steve Russell, Stephon Mehu

Minutes

Skuly made a motion to approve the January 12, 2026 minutes. Audette seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

Legislative update—Spoke to Senator Donovan Fenton about upcoming energy bills. Fenton is on Ways & Means, Commerce, Transportation and Revenue committees. Favorable bills: SB 590 passed the Senate and is moving to the House; it's in regards to power aggregation plans. SB 538 extends net metering eligibility—he's a co-sponsor.

Unfavorable bills: HB1002 would repeal the solar system tax exemption. HB1445 affects energy standards, and opens the door for fossil fuels to be considered "reliable." Eversource opposes it. HB219 changes the renewable portfolio standards.

What can we do? Fenton suggested targeting state reps (like Sly Karasinski) and showing them how alternative energy is good and affects us. There should be a diversity of ways to supply electricity. He said his office can be helpful to us if we have questions.

Clean Energy NH—Skuly said she found their legislative tracker hard to follow. Audette said he and Steve Russell attended their winter meeting. He said the Monadnock Sustainability Hub has a mentor program they want to extend to Swanzey. Should we invite them to a meeting?

DPW Building bond hearing—building was approved. Audette said he read our resolution re: engineering the building to hold solar. The department seems open to it. Skuly said she'll talk to Joe DiRusso about the orientation of the building. Can we get advice from Jude Nuru as to what the building needs to accommodate solar? Would he help us as a Swanzey resident? Skuly will contact him as well.

Municipal Buildings & Audits—Nothing new to report, but town crew is weatherstripping the kitchen door on Whitcomb Hall today. Domina said that she spoke with Richard Scaramelli and there is another fund that could potentially be used for the Carpenter Home; he is still researching it. Skuly will talk to Allyce Romaneck and ask her to do a priority list from the audit. Was the long-term lease on the warrant?

Budget—We paid $300 to CENH for 2025 dues in Sept. When are 2026 dues due?

Solar Coffee—Stephon Mehu was going to make us a spreadsheet of solar owners in town.

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Next meeting: Changed to Friday, March 13, 1 pm. Agenda: Solar ordinance review so SWRPC can audit it this year.

Adjournment: Domina moved, Audette seconded, all in favor, adjourned 2:30 pm.

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