Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for April 13, 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 1:07 pm by Chair Audette. Present: Robert Audette, Barbara Skuly, Stephen Russell, Cheri Domina, Alan Gross (Selectboard rep.)

Absent: Stephon Mehu

Minutes
Skuly made a motion to approve the March 13, 2026 minutes. Audette seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

Congressionally Directed Spending/Community Project Funding—Audette said we learned that the DOE would only fund 30% of the cost of a solar array and batteries and shelter at the new fire station – less than hoped. So Swanzey withdrew its CPF application from Goodlander's office, since the Selectboard didn't want to come up with an extra $200,000. We will try again next spring; funding amounts could change, depending on who is in Congress. Audette said he learned a lot and feels we could get more next year.

The application for CDS for the DPW building array & batteries is still in play through Senator Hassan's office.

Municipal Buildings & Audits—Skuly sent an application to Eversource for weatherization funding for Carpenter Home, Whitcomb Hall and Stratton Library over a month ago; still hasn't heard back. Domina said George Whitcomb fund (per Richard Scaramelli) has $41,270 for use at Carpenter Home. We would need to apply to the Selectmen to use the funding.

Net Metering hearing / Clean Energy NH—Earlier this year, Audette asked Selectmen to sign onto a letter from CENH in support of a net metering extension, which is supposed to expire in NH in 2040. They did sign. Audette received an email from Frank Richter saying that the recent state hearing on net metering went well. We should contact our state reps in support.

Discussed online CENH programs like one on CPACER April 23. NH Energy Week is May 4-8 – many offerings. Russell said he attended a legislative update from CENH and asked where the $100 is going that you pay when you register an electric car – no answer given.

CENH has asked us to oppose HB1542, to defund the Renewable Energy Fund; public hearing is tomorrow.

Electrify Monadnock program is going to be rolled out May 30 at a Keene Public Library launch event, 10-noon. There's also a clean energy roundtable June 9.

DRAFT

Solar Coffee event—Audette read wording for an invitation to a solar coffee event for solar owners. He wants to send a postcard. He said there are 150 people in town getting the solar exemption. He favors a program just for solar array owners to discuss their projects together, and we would gather info. Domina suggested we could get that information via a survey; might get better participation. Do we have emails?

Solar Ordinance—Audette said he'd forward the final ordinance for us to review. We need to approve at the May meeting and send it on to the Planning Board.

Energy Capital Reserve Fund – Do we want one for Swanzey? Richter has sample language to put on next year's warrant if we want to start one for energy efficiency improvements. Russell asked if other towns are doing this. A few towns do have them; it could help with our weatherization projects. Skuly said we need to see what the current projects will cost us and figure out a budget.

Monadnock Sustainability Hub mentor program—do we want to promote this? Felt that it's up to the Sustainability Hub to promote it.

Wastewater Treatment Plan open house—Skuly reported that the town committee that oversees the plant is quite loose and doesn't meet regularly. Not a standing committee. Lori Rautiola suggested we meet with the Governance Comm. to discuss the event. They are talking about changing that committee's charge; Rautiola will discuss with Chair Ann Heffernon. Joe DiRusso suggested June is a good time for this event. Our plant is at capacity to treat wastewater, so we'll need to decide soon if we upgrade or send wastewater to Keene. Skuly will follow up with Rautiola.

Other business—Russell noted there will be a display of EV's at the Monadnock Co-op April 25 for Earth Day events.

Next meeting—May 11 (Skuly not available)

Adjournment: Skuly moved, Russell seconded, all in favor, adjourned 2:25 pm.

DRAFT