Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for May 18, 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 April 13, 2026 minutes. Russell seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

Net Metering Contract for Airport Solar Array—Town is reviewing the Group Net Metering Member Agreement, but without particulars—it's Revision's standard contract. Keene won't be using all 5 MW of power to be generated, and is giving Swanzey (town, school district or nonprofits) an opportunity to join the contract as a member. Russell wants to talk to Keene about having the Mt. Caesar Library sign on. Would it be cheaper to do our own solar project, or use Keene's power? Reviewed the contract and discussed questions.

Questions on the contract: What is our financial responsibility? How does the town benefit? How does this fit into our plan to designate emergency shelters at the fire station and DPW (they would be off-grid)? How much power can we buy from Keene? Would there be a cost escalator over the 20 year life of the contract? Does this keep us from enrolling in another net metering agreement (there is a clause that would let us out of the contract, with several months' notice)?

Town Administrator Lori Rautiola & Selectmen are meeting with the City of Keene and Revision Wed. at 4:30—we will attend.

Eversource HQ—Russell reported that he went to Eversource HQ in Manchester during Energy Week activities. Their emergency response room covers NH's whole power grid. They can re-activate all their breakers from there remotely. He asked when NH is getting smart meters, and they said it would be a long time. Only 5% of Eversource power is from renewables, Russell said.

Solar Survey—Reviewed the survey Audette created; he will get it into Swanzey Uncovered. Deadline is June 1. Add question: What enabled you to overcome any barriers; how did you overcome them? Add a few words to intro about how we will share the experiences and tips to encourage others. Put results in winter Swanzey Uncovered.

Municipal Buildings Weatherization—Skuly sent an application to Eversource for weatherization funding for Carpenter Home, Whitcomb Hall and Stratton Library over a month ago; she will nudge them for an answer.

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Solar Ordinance

Audette made a motion to send the solar ordinance on to the Planning Board for review. Skuly seconded. All in favor—motion passed. Audette will speak to the PB about getting on their agenda.

CPACER—Audette will ask Frank Richter at CENH for an update on the program and process.

Wastewater Treatment Plant open house—Gross reported that the town's water/sewer committee has been studying whether to upgrade our plant vs. send our wastewater to Keene—a cost difference of $25 million vs. $15 million. Gross said the town will send the wastewater to Keene. What does that mean for our open house & solar array? There will still need to be pumps at the site to pump the waste to Keene. The open house will also be a good chance to talk to people about why the change needs to happen. Skuly said she'll coordinate with Joe DiRusso, who said he and an employee can handle the open house.

Domina said she would help with PR in early June—get the event on signs at town hall and Whitcomb Hall, Facebook, Shopper & Sentinel, Town website and email. Domina and Skuly will work on announcement. Will there also be storyboards at the event?

Old Home Day—Gross asked if we would do a table on energy savings July 18? Or have info at town table?

Next meeting—June 8

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

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