Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for June 8, 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 (on Zoom), Barbara Skuly, Stephen Russell, Cheri Domina, Alan Gross (Selectboard rep.), Asst. Town Planner Stephon Mehu

Minutes

Audette made a motion to approve the May 18, 2026 minutes. Russell seconded. All in favor. Approved.

Business

SolSmart—Audette said he received an email from Bill Hutwelker, and will talk to the Selectboard June 17 with Frank Richter to talk about SolSmart. The town can get grants if we are SolSmart certified. Russell and Mehu said they'd join them. Mehu said SolSmart is a designation for the town, that helps with grants and ordinances. Mehu said he has reviewed our ordinance with SolSmart and they said it was brief but workable.

Solar Ordinance—We are going to the Planning Board with the Solar Ordinance June 25.

Municipal Buildings Weatherization—Skuly said Eversource has granted us 40-50% of the cost of the project. The agreement needs to be signed by Lori Rautiola for Carpenter Home and Whitcomb Hall by June 20 (30 days). Could the Selectmen sign if she can't? Skuly said a trustee for Stratton Library could sign for them. Their deadline for work to be done is short, but Skuly said she was told we had until year-end; we can re-authorize if we need an extension. Skuly spoke with Joe DiRusso of DPW about major work needing to be done at Carpenter Home. They are meeting tomorrow about structural work; can we get it all done at once? The job would likely have to go to bid. Russell suggested taking the agreement June 17 to Selectmen. Mehu said we should meet with Rautiola first. He said that Northern Borders Regional Commission is a good source of funding/matching funds, up to $100,000. The town has an active grant for roadwork; can reapply in fall.

Wastewater Treatment Plant/Solar Array open house, June 20, 9-12—Discussed PR; sending wastewater to Keene is less $ than upgrading our plant. Some recent upgrades to the plant are already saving taxpayers money. We will discuss environmental benefits of the solar array; Skuly is researching costs of array and money we're saving. Mehu will get her a contact for Revision Solar. Domina is doing Facebook and newspaper PR; Skuly will ask about town signs.

It was recommended to us that the town switch from Constellation back to Eversource to get the credits we are due for the solar array.

Net Metering Contract for Airport Solar Array—Audette, Domina and Skuly attended Selectmen's meeting May 20 to hear about the contract. Reps from City of Keene and Revision were there to discuss. Swanzey now has to decide how many accounts to dedicate to the Keene project. Who will work out the details? Mehu said SWRPC and our Financial Director will work on it.

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CPACER—Mehu said he hopes to get this on the warrant next year, in case the NH legislature doesn't approve having Selectmen able to sign on. He thinks it's a great opportunity for local businesses.

Other business—Russell said he is going to the energy roundtable at Stonewall Farm tomorrow eve. CENH legislative wrap-up is June 12 at noon.

Next meeting—July 13

Adjournment: Gross moved, Audette seconded, all in favor, adjourned 1:55 pm.

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