Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for November 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 1:10 pm by Chair Audette. Present: Robert Audette, Barbara Skuly, Stephen Russell, Cheri Domina, Alan Gross (Selectboard rep.)

Minutes

Russell made a motion to approve the October 12, 2026 minutes. Audette seconded. Approved. Domina noted we still need to amend and approve the Aug. minutes.

BUSINESS

Local Energy Solutions conference—Russell said he can't go this year to Manchester because of legislative duties. Skuly went last year.

Town updates—Discussed changes to staff and duties at town office. New newsletter committee is meeting Thursday; will be a newsletter before Christmas.

Clean Energy NH & RANH grant—Russell said he has not heard back from the developer at the Gomarlo's site, re: EV chargers. CENH has a list of EV charging installers. Gross said the developer is installing a cable onsite so that they'll have the capability for a charger. Russell will double check before they pave. The grant will pay for level 2 EV chargers. Market Basket has installed chargers at other stores in ME and MA. Can Charging Smart NH help with an ordinance that will permit Level 3 chargers here? Members agreed that our ordinances should even require chargers to be installed for some developments, like apartment complexes.

EVs for Swanzey fleet— Russell asked Stephon Mehu for a spreadsheet of the town's vehicle fleet, but perhaps should now ask Finance Director Andre Jaeger about it. Mehu had suggested we have a 6-year cost-comparison spreadsheet to show the town, between EVs and gas-powered vehicles.

Too many lights? Russell asked why the new Fire Station is so lit up every night. Gross said he'd look into it. Discussed concerns about light pollution in town—not only for waste of electricity but for disturbance of wildlife and human sleep and damage to rural character. Gross asked Domina to write something for town newsletter about light pollution.

Solar RECs—Skuly said that we now have a signed agreement on the sale of solar RECs, according to Selectman Jimmy Tempesta.

Municipal Buildings Weatherization—Skuly said she went to the Oct. 28 Whitcomb Hall Committee meeting and was disappointed in the pushback she received. Members had only recently seen (or not read) the audit and wanted to talk about weatherization details, and she had hoped to talk about funding. She sent the audit to them many months ago, and the chair was unresponsive for a long time. They felt the estimate from NE Sealing was too high; Joe DiRusso wanted to do some work in-house.

Skuly will see if we can get the Eversource grant extended, and will talk to NE Sealing. Would Margaret from Eversource speak to the WH Committee? They meet again in December. The WH Committee has been tackling smaller tasks, like vent over stove and outside doors. Pinnacle Window and Door is working on Stratton Library, and can give an estimate on windows and doors for Whitcomb Hall.

Whitcomb Hall has $43,000 available in two funds, minus $12,000 for projects DiRusso is doing now, and $4,000 slated for floor work. What is the WH Committee's budget? We may have to let the Eversource grants for WH and Carpenter Home go, but could perhaps re-submit.

Municipal Hydro Contract—Skuly is looking at electric bills for the town. We need to see the hydro contract with the town vs. the community solar contract with Keene. Jaeger needs to tell us where the money from the hydro contract is coming in, how much it is, and which account it's going into. Audette will ask if we can meet with Jaeger and new Town Administrator Jeremy Bourgeouis.

Solar Ordinance—Audette will be in touch with the Planning Board Chair.

Next meeting—December 14

Adjournment: Domina moved, Audette seconded, all in favor, adjourned 2:15 pm.

DRAFT