Town of Swanzey, NH
Swanzey Energy Commission
Meeting Minutes for October 12, 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 1:03 pm by Chair Audette. Present: Robert Audette, Barbara Skuly, Stephen Russell, Cheri Domina, Alan Gross (Selectboard rep.), Asst. Town Planner Stephon Mehu.

Minutes

Russell made a motion to approve the September 14, 2026 minutes. Audette seconded. Skuly had some corrections: People who received notices about Swanzey Community Power were those deemed "newly eligible" to join. Also, Revision couldn't send documents via Docusign because they had no contact yet to send them to. **Minutes approved as amended.**

BUSINESS

Clean Energy NH & RANH grant—funding from this grant can go toward installing level 2 EV chargers in Swanzey. Site must be along a travel corridor, downtown, or at a tourist destination. Russell said he left messages for the engineer developing the new gas pumps at Gomarlo's and tried to see the owner to inform them of the grant. Discussed other possible locations – Market Basket might not be appropriate, as level 2 charging is slow. What about the airport? The grant also includes free technical assistance thru Charging Smart NH. We would get free advice. Have to enroll in Charging Smart NH (free) by Nov. 1. Russell agreed to be the point of contact. CENH is a partner with Charging Smart.

Audette moved to approve calling Sarah Brock about the Rte. 10 location at Gomarlo's and enroll us in Charging Smart NH. Gross seconded. All in favor.

EVs for Swanzey fleet—Mehu suggested we have a 6-year cost-comparison spreadsheet to show the town, between EVs and gas-powered vehicles. Russell said he can find that info.

Solar Ordinance—We were told the solar ordinance will get pushed to next year, because of SWRPC's ordinance audit. There will be many amendments in 2027. We've been waiting two years. Audette said the Planning Board Chair will bring up the ordinance at the next meeting to ask how we'd like to proceed.

New Finance Officer Andre Jeager / Solar RECs—Audette & Skuly met with him and asked for clarification on accounts, and how to track down project costs & benefits for our solar array at the wastewater plant. Also need to know about our hydro contract with Standard Power. Mehu said he needs to call the rep re: net metering contracts. Skuly said she asked Bill Hutwelker about the solar RECs and he told her they signed the hydro contract Sept. 23 without telling us. She also said Tempesta is the contact for our solar RECs now. Has the town voted to go with Community Power program? Audette will follow up. We need better communication with the Selectboard—Gross said he would be our liaison—and we should meet with the new Admin Director, who is starting Oct. 28.

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Municipal Hydro Contract—The hydro contract signed Sept. 23 is for five years. Can we opt out and switch to contract with the Keene solar array once that is done? How much are we obligated, and will we be able to join another community net metering project?

Municipal Buildings Weatherization—Skuly said she hasn't heard back from the Whitcomb Hall Committee since our last meeting. She spoke to Richard Scaramelli, who further clarified the different funds for the hall. There is both a restoration and a rehab fund. Can we ask Selectmen for the funds we need? Mehu said to talk to Joe DiRusso as the facilities manager. As of June, the Restoration fun had $21,100 and the Rehab Fund $22,500. We agreed to ask Selectmen for $12,771 plus 10% contingency. Eversource might approve more funds if we need it. Selectmen are meeting Wed.; Audette will try to get on the agenda for this Wed. or next.

Mehu, Gross and Charles Harbeck toured the Carpenter Home last month. The CIP Committee will be talking about the building next time they meet, Gross said. Mehu suggested that an engineer needs to look at the front of the building. It needs to be fully assessed. Skuly suggested there needs to be a plan with priorities. If we keep the building, we should do the weatherization. Audette can bring up the Carpenter Home with Selectmen too. Is there a structural engineer in town who can volunteer time? Audette suggested we apply for congressional funding, as this is a critical daycare facility. Mehu suggested Goodlander's office by March; Audette will call.

Waste Oil Burner—The Transfer Station is looking for a new waste oil burner, as the old one has died, said Mehu.

Swanzey Uncovered newsletter—Audette is meeting with Ann Heffernon Oct. 15 re: helping with a more regular newsletter. As an offshoot of the Community Conversations program, the town will do 2 newsletters a year and a new team will do two more. There will also be a game night at the library.

Energy Fair—Russell said the EV show was not that well-attended, perhaps due to venue.

Next meeting—November 9

Adjournment: Russell moved, Audette seconded, all in favor, adjourned 2:17 pm.

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