

1 **APPROVED Minutes for Energy Committee Meeting 2026-05-11**

2 **Meeting opened at 7:05pm**

3 **Attending**

4 Ruth Heath, Beth McGuinn, Jeremy Whaley, Beth Blair (BOS rep), Keith Brown (guest).
5 Absent: Jeff Beltramo

6 **Approval of Minutes 2026-04-13**

7 Beth B. was acting secretary for the meeting. She presented her suggested edits to the
8 previous minutes, including adding full names of committee members, clarifying certain
9 points, and correcting minor grammar errors. The group voted to approve the amended
10 minutes.

11 **Membership**

12 The Energy Committee welcomed Keith Brown of Clough Pond Rd. to the meeting.
13 Keith was invited by Ruth to attend to see if he would like to join the committee. The
14 committee discussed membership needs in general and mentioned other community
15 members who have been approached to join.

- 16 • Aiming for five full members and two alternate members.

17 **C-PACER**

18 Beth B. reported on the Zoom seminar she attended for municipalities about the C-
19 PACER program, how it works, and what responsibilities a Town has in helping to
20 implement the program.

- 21 • The meeting focused on how C-PACER was designed to be easy for towns to
22 participate in. For example, it allows certain tasks, such as filing documents at
23 the Registry of Deeds, to be delegated to their attorneys at no additional cost to
24 the town. The town is primarily involved in setting up the C-PACER district.
- 25 • Beth B. voiced hesitation in believing that the program is really as simple as they
26 make it sound and would like to see how it actually works in other towns before
27 supporting the program. However, Beth B. has passed the summary of the
28 seminar as well as the video along to other Selectboard members for discussion
29 at a future meeting.
- 30 • In general, the Committee supports this program and would like to see it
31 implemented in Canterbury.

32 **Energy Audit at Municipal Center**

Audit was conducted by Turncycle Solutions of Nashua NH at the Municipal Center on April 13, 2026. Both Ken Folsom (Town Admin.) and Jeremy Whaley (Energy Committee) attended.

- Ken is frustrated with Turncycle for not providing a useful energy audit report after spending time and effort on the assessment.

- The report lacked detailed recommendations for weatherization improvements (materials, cost, payback, etc.), only suggesting adding large fans and supplemental heating.

- Discussion about current lack of incentives from Unitil, and how they might have lost interest in the project after realizing that the Town couldn't commit to any energy improvements until the next budget cycle (starting Sept. 2026, budget voted on at Town meeting 2027).

- Next Steps in attempting to get an Audit: The committee discussed reaching out to Resilient Buildings Group and Clean Energy NH to address the issue and seek a cost estimate for a more comprehensive energy audit.

Beth M. has a contact at Resilient that she will call to see if a better outcome can be realized.

The goal is to obtain a cost estimate for a level 3 energy audit, which would provide specific recommendations for energy savings. Note: It is possible that a level 3 Audit could cost several thousands of dollars.

Considering whether to report Turncycle's unprofessional behavior and seek clarification on whether other people have had similar experiences.

- Jeremy will follow-up with Ken Folsom to see what he would be willing to do to help the process in future. Possibly Ken will just have to Email his approval for the Energy Committee to do the legwork.

Additionally, there was discussion about conducting a roof assessment for the municipal building to determine its suitability for solar panels, exploring ways to reduce energy usage in the highway bays (particularly during winter storms), and follow up on some minor changes that might help reduce energy use (such as moving the thermostat in the highway bay).

Note: According to Jeremy, Ken Folsom was open to a solar company assessing the roof structure for solar panel installation.

Report On Battery Storage Workshop

Beth McGuinn and Beth Blair both attended a battery storage presentation by Clean Energy NH. Unfortunately, the upshot is that while there was a lot of information at the seminar, not much, or any, of it was useful in NH due to lack of incentives for battery adoption.

WindowDressers

Ruth reported that the town of Gilmanton is excited to be joining Canterbury at our October build as they missed the opportunity of hosting their own build. Ruth believes they might add orders for 50-60 inserts to the event.

Other Business

- Beth M. visited the Poverty Plains solar installation in Warner. Poverty Plains is a 5 megawatt solar array supplying energy to towns, municipalities, and schools that are members of the community power coalition. The project looks good!
- Ruth reports that there will be an energy workshop on Thursday, May 14 at 2 PM about microgrids and decentralized energy production on community solar farms.

"Are Microgrids and Decentralized Energy production on Community Solar Farms the future of New Hampshire?"

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/35768649?pwd=bXZmbHpoTXBram9DalhqZFBaWkprUT09>

- Solar Friendly Zoning: Discussion about the need for updated solar-friendly zoning ordinances, with a suggestion to review a model ordinance and involve the Planning Board in the process.

Beth M. will reach out to Brendan Odonnell of the Planning Board to see if it is useful for the Energy Committee to attend a PB meeting to discuss this.

Ruth presented info about a "Solar App Plus," a new app that streamlines the permitting process for solar installations. The app provides instant feedback on permit approval and reduces the workload for building inspectors. While the app offers potential efficiency gains, there are concerns about the upfront cost (time and effort of Town employee to input all the relevant questions, maps, ordinances, links, etc. into the app). There is a 20-Minute YouTube video available which explains the program further. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKhX_UAT8YQ-

- Proposal from Beth B. to form a subcommittee to develop a maintenance plan for the Town's two solar arrays, ensuring their optimal performance and longevity. Fred Portnoy is interested in helping with this specific task, perhaps with Jim Snyder. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.
- Beth M. attended several Energy Week sessions. At one she sat next to Congresswoman Maggie Goodlander who has concerns about Liberty Utilities moratorium on new natural gas service connections and requests for increased gas usage within its Tilton service area.

107 The moratorium is due to the existing pipeline's inability to accommodate new
108 service connections until system upgrades are complete. Planning for the
109 upgrades is expected to begin in the summer of 2026.

110 **Future Workshops**

111 The Committee discussed hosting two workshops Planning for these events will
112 continue at the next meeting.

113 • Eversource's battery incentives (November). Note: Beth M. has contact with
114 woman from Eversource who is willing to attend and discuss the programs
115 further.

116 • Energy Efficiency (October or November).

117 **Motion to Adjourn 9:02 pm**

118 Ruth motions to adjourn, Beth M. seconds, all agree.

119 **Next meeting scheduled for Monday, June 8, 7pm.**

120

121 **Note: These minutes prepared by Beth Blair.**