

2026-05-13_Community Power Committee_Minutes_Draft

Location: Meeting House

Members present: Beth McGuinn, Edgar Rivera, Tim Meeh, Fred Portnoy, Beth Blair (BOS Rep.)

Meeting called to order 7 pm

1. Review previous minutes from 1026-03-15

One change, on line 87

We discussed creating an Excel spreadsheet with CPCNH rates vs UTILITY rates so that we can easily help concerned residents understand their options.

Otherwise minutes OK, all approved as amended.

2. Old Business

Educating “Solarize Canterbury” participants on how they can sell their RECS (Renewable Energy Credits) to Community Power Coalition of NH. Beth Blair did not bring this up at recent Energy Committee meeting, but will make note to do it to at the June meeting.

The committee discussed the lack of response from Sen. Howard Pearl regarding House Bill 1733 (reform to the state’s utility default service framework) after Tim contacted his office.

NOTES:

Bill 1733 passed <https://www.communitypowernh.gov/post/hb-1733-default-service-energy-market-reform>

Ruth Heath of the Energy Committee contacted Rep. Jose Cambrills about SB 538 (extending net metering eligibility terms for municipal energy projects). He responded in favor of our position.

3. CPCNH Rep reports

Beth M reports.

28 The Poverty Plains 5 MW project in Warner is just about done. Eversource dragging feet on putting
29 up poles to deliver the power from the array. Chicken and egg situation: need to get permission
30 to transmit electricity (PTO) but because this is a group net metering situation, need a group net
31 metering number. Law and regs disagree about which comes first. Might cost several thousands of
32 dollars to CPCNH, or might delay going on-line during peak solar production months. Good news
33 is the project is almost done and has been completed more quickly than usual for this kind of
34 project.

35 Coalition is trying to implement “Peak Shaving” – focusing on those highest use times/days and
36 finding ways to decrease use so as to avoid having inefficient “peaker plants” coming on-line. In
37 June, CCPCNH will likely start a system where they can send an alert email or text just before a
38 “peak” so that subscribers could reduce their electricity use at that time. The system is voluntary –
39 customers would have to go to website to sign up for the alerts, and then reply about what they did
40 to reduce their usage (such as turn off airco, etc.) Might eventually want to compensate customers
41 somehow...TBD.

42 The DASI (Day Ahead Ancillary Services Initiative) a fee imposed by ISO New England,
43 unexpectedly doubled the expected costs for the coalition. Unclear whether the utilities are
44 seasonally accounting for these charges like CPCNH is which makes it difficult to determine the
45 full impact on utility prices.
46

47 **4. 2026 CPCNH Annual Meeting**

48 Edgar and Beth both attended. They shared paper copies of the annual report. Beth B. will see that
49 a link to the report is included on the Town website.

50 Positive impressions of the annual meeting, particularly the organization, the knowledge of the
51 attendees, and the leadership of Henry Herndon.

52 Only Beth (primary rep) could vote at the annual meeting. The ability for towns to appoint a
53 secondary alternate position was approved to provide continuity. As a result, Canterbury could
54 appoint another alternate in addition to Edgar. Would be good to find someone who would like to
55 join Canterbury Community Power who might also be interested in being a committee member to
56 CPCNH.

57 Beth M. will continue on the Projects and Programs committee.

58 Edgar will join the Audit Committee, which currently consists of only the treasurer. They meet
59 three times a year to review the organization’s financial reports. Edgar has a degree in accounting
60 which will be very helpful to this committee. He is looking forward to learning how they work. First
61 meeting for Edgar on the audit committee is in July, 2026.

- The recent audit did not identify any major concerns with CPCNH. It did present recommendations for improving practices, with six of the seven recommendations already addressed.
- It was explained that the budget is facing challenges due to the recent unpredictable and unusually harsh winter weather, but March performed better than expected.

5. Re-cap of the BYOB Bill session held at 5:30 tonight

5 families showed up: Sue Williams, Ali DiNome, the Reindeaus, Mary Ann Quinn

When they learned the difference between the Community Power rate and the Unitil rate (with their usage, the Community Power rate was approx. \$7 a month more) several were not as concerned about opting out. 1 person decided to opt down to Canterbury Basic rate (with the adder) from the slightly more expensive rate that used a percentage of renewable energy.

Beth M. calculated what it would be additional for the people who came in if they chose the Canterbury Basic rate with the adder ... it ended up to be about 12 cents a bill.

Beth M. questions whether the CCPC should come to the Farmers Market with a BYOB? Maybe 2 times over the summer.

-- Would be a good reason to develop a spread sheet of the different utility rates and how they compare to Community Power and what the cost difference is on an average bill.

-- Providing clear explanations of community power costs, including distribution rates, can help residents understand utility charges and potentially reduce complaints.

-- CPCNH could potentially send representatives to the meeting, especially if asked.

-- Also good way to attract new members!

6. Discussion of future BYOB sessions or other education sessions

Edgar suggests in the TriCentennial year a course on how municipal government and town meeting works in Canterbury to cut down on some residents' complaints that "just a few people decide stuff (like participating in Community Power) for the whole town"

The community newsletter for June will include information about the upcoming rate adjustment in August.

Additionally, the idea of having a Community Power booth at the Canterbury Fair is proposed, along with the possibility of distributing kids T-shirts to promote the organization.

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94 **7. Other Business**

95 There was a discussion about Canterbury creating its own municipal electric utility, possibly using
96 local solar power and a microgrid. The idea could help protect the town from rising energy costs
97 and future power shortages. While the concept is appealing, there are significant financial and
98 regulatory challenges that would need to be considered. Probably not feasible.

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100 **Motion to adjourn by Fred, seconded by Tim, all agree. Meeting Adjourned 8:48 pm**

101 **Next Meeting scheduled for June 10, 2026, 7pm**

102 Minutes submitted by Beth Blair

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