



**CITY OF CONCORD**  
*New Hampshire's Main Street™*  
**41 Green Street, Concord NH 03301**  
**(603) 225-8570**

**CONCORD ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CEEAC)**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 26, 2025 @ 6:30PM**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**37 Green Street (2nd Floor) - Concord, NH 03301**

**Attendees:**

Committee Members:

Acting Chair Councilor Stacey Brown, Dot Currier, Gerald Eaton, Chuck Willing, Miriah King, Jeffrey Evans, Joe Kwasnik

**Absent Members:**

Rob Werner, Chair  
Carl Cooley  
Councilor Jeffrey Foote  
Nick Babladelis  
Allen Desbiens

**Staff Present:**

Beth Fenstermacher, PLA, LEED AP, Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives  
Stephanie McKim, Administrative Coordinator

**1. Welcome by Acting Chair Councilor Brown**

Acting Chair Councilor Brown welcomed those in attendance. The Committee welcomed newly appointed member Joe Kwasnik.

**2. Municipal Project Updates**

**Solar Project at Landfill (Kearsarge Solar)**

Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the solar project at the Landfill (Kearsarge Solar) is moving forward. They have submitted their planning board application and it is expected to be heard in May. Kearsarge anticipates a June timeframe for receipt of their state permits. City staff had a meeting with Unitil regarding an easement to relocate transmission lines at the capped landfill. Unitil is expected to begin working on the relocation this summer. Kearsarge expects to begin

1 solar panel installations late summer. Ms. Fenstermacher expects a June/July public event to  
2 kick off construction.

3  
4 **West Portsmouth Street Solar Project (Lodestar)**

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6 Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the West Portsmouth Street Solar Project (Lodestar) project is  
7 still waiting for permit response and there is no new information to report.

8  
9 **Wastewater Treatment Plant Solar Project**

10 Ms. Fenstermacher reported that the Waste Water Treatment Plant Solar Project is operating.  
11 The dashboard is active on the City website under [concordnh.gov/sustainability](http://concordnh.gov/sustainability) and people can  
12 learn about solar energy and witness the energy produced by the wastewater treatment plant  
13 solar array.

14  
15 Discussion ensued around Kearsarge net metering agreement, and the wastewater treatment  
16 plant solar dashboard.

17  
18 **3. Adoption of Minutes**

19 A motion was made by Mr. Eaton and duly seconded by Mr. Willing to adopt the minutes of  
20 February 26, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

21 **4. COMMUNITY POWER**

22  
23 **Community Power Coalition Policy Update**

24  
25 Mr. Willing distributed and reviewed a Community Power report to the CEEAC dated March 26,  
26 2025. This report is attached.

27  
28 Mr. Willing reported that Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPNCH) rates remain  
29 unchanged since the February 26, 2025 report. He stressed the importance of circulating the  
30 CPNCH rates and information on the opt options available to CPNCH customers each month.

31  
32 Mr. Willing reported on page two of the Community Power report, there is information  
33 regarding four separate open dockets set for hearings in March 31, April and May at the Public  
34 Utilities Commission (PUC). These hearing pertain to utility companies procuring power from  
35 the daily market and the possible cost shift. The relevant utility companies, PUC staff,  
36 Department of Energy, Consumer Advocates, Community Power Coalition, and several  
37 competitive utility suppliers are involved in these hearings. These hearings are open if anyone  
38 is interested in attending.

39  
40 Mr. Willing reported HB760 was voted inexpedient to legislate by the House Science,  
41 Technology and Energy Committee on 3/10/25. This bill was introduced to prohibit the PUC  
42 from approving a cost-shift.  
43

1 Ms. Carrier inquired if the proposed cost shift would affect the solar net metering. Mr. Willing  
2 reported it could impact net metering due to utility energy supply rates effect on the price of net  
3 metering. If the Utility company artificially depressed their energy supply rates and charge  
4 whatever the under collection is through the stranded cost recovery charge, solar project like  
5 the Landfill could witness reduced value for their net metering credits.

6  
7 Discussion ensued regarding HB760, potential legal challenges if the PUC ultimately approves  
8 cost-shifting, and related issues.

9  
10 Mr. Willing reported the CPCNH CEO Brian Callnan departed his position with the organization  
11 at the end of February. He provided the CPCNH Board of Directors press release appointing an  
12 acting General Manager, Henry Herndon.

13  
14 Discussion ensued regarding the CPCNH joint reserves management, legality of cost shifting  
15 from utility companies to consumer outside of their service network, and the impact on CPCNH  
16 rates.

17  
18 Mr. Willing reported the annual CPCNH membership meeting will be April 24<sup>th</sup> in Manchester  
19 and is open for the public to attend. He reported that CPCNH also conducts periodic educational  
20 sessions for member communities to attend, and the next session is on Group Net Metering.

## 21 22 **5. POLICY AND PROJECT UPDATES**

### 23 **CEEAC Community Power “Adder” workgroup**

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25  
26 Mr. Willing reported that a few members of the Community Power Adder workgroup have met  
27 and will be meeting again in April. A report will be presented to the CEEAC Committee after the  
28 April meeting.

### 29 30 **UNH Sustainability Fellow (Summer, 2025)**

31  
32 Ms. Fenstermacher reported Kayla Maggio has been selected for the UNH Sustainability Fellow.  
33 Ms. Maggio is working on her Master degree in Arizona. Additionally, Ms. Maggio has  
34 employment background working with solar companies. Ms. Maggio will be relocating to the  
35 Concord area for the summer fellowship with a start time frame of June.

### 36 37 **Earth Day Workgroup**

38  
39 Acting Chair Counselor Brown reported the Earth Day workgroup has met. Chair Werner  
40 reserved the Community Center for April 21 from 6 pm to 8 pm for an Earth Day Celebration.

41  
42 Acting Chair Councilor Brown reported there are several speakers lined up for the event to  
43 discuss initiatives for sustainability, and energy.

44  
45 Ms. King submitted draft Earth Day flyers to the committee for review and comment.

46  
47 Ms. Fenstermacher reported the meeting for CEEAC committee scheduled for April 23 will move  
48 to April 21 to support the Earth Day celebration at the Community Center

49

1 Discussion ensued about Earth Day celebration, other committee involvement, and Earth Day  
2 participation ideas.

3  
4 **6. Other Business:**

5  
6 Ms. Fenstermacher reported HB 221 could have potential impact on NH Saves and the  
7 weatherization program. She stated there is a hearing April 1 at the Senate Energy and Natural  
8 Resources committee.

9  
10 Discussion ensued regarding bills related to DOE energy funds, and tracking of future bills of  
11 interest to the CEEAC committee.

12  
13 A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Evans and duly seconded by Mr. Kwasnik. The motion  
14 passed unanimously.

15  
16 **7. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

17  
18  
19 Respectfully Submitted,

20  
21 Stephanie McKim  
22 Administrative Coordinator – Development  
23  
24

**Community Power Report to CEEAC (March 26, 2025)**

- Listing again for reference the previous, current and next CPCNH and utility rates and also a sampling of the broker model supply rates.

<b>Product</b>	<b>Fall 2024 Rate (cents/kwh) - 8/1/24 through 1/31/25</b>	<b>Previous Rate (cents/kwh) - 2/1/25 through 3/2/25</b>	<b>Current Rate (cents/kwh) - 3/3/25 through 7/31/25</b>
CPCNH Granite Basic	8.6	8.9	9.7
CPCNH Granite Plus	9.3	9.6	10.4
CPCNH Granite Clean 50	10.0	10.3	11.1
CPCNH Granite Clean 100	12.0	12.3	13.1
Unitil	10.506	8.306	8.306
Eversource	10.403	8.929	8.929
Liberty Utilities (Granite St Elec)	10.976	8.416	8.416
NH Electric Cooperative	8.648	8.108	8.108
Keene CP (RPS+10%)	11.471	11.471	11.471
Milford CP (RPS)	10.568	10.568	10.568
Hampton CP (RPS)	9.425	9.425	9.425

- The default rate for Concord residents has moved from 9.3 cents/kwh (Granite Plus) in the fall rate period to 8.9 cents/kwh (Granite Basic) in February to 9.7 cents/kwh (Granite Basic) now. The current rate period is the first time in the 5 rate periods CPCNH has operated that it has not offered a rate lower than all three investor-owned utility rates.
- Concord residents can opt out of the community power program if they wish (or opt up). Their choices will take effect at next meter read. To do this, residents can call 866-603-7697 or email to [Info@CommunityPowerNH.gov](mailto:Info@CommunityPowerNH.gov) or go to <https://www.communitypowernh.gov>, click on residential rates, then scroll down to "To Get Started." Have your utility account number handy.
- If a Concord resident in Unitil territory opts out of Concord Community Power during the current rate period, they will move to Unitil's variable monthly rates for the rest of the rate period (through 7/31/25). Those monthly rates are below. If they remain with Unitil, they will receive Unitil's 6-month rate starting in the next rate period.

<b>March</b>	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>
7.738 cents/kwh	6.528 cents/kwh	6.211 cents/kwh	7.294 cents/kwh	8.722 cents/kwh

- We should communicate with Concord residents about the rate change to keep residents informed about program and their options.
- The increase in CPCNH's rates was primarily caused by high wholesale energy prices and higher than expected electricity consumption due to colder than average winter temperatures, compounded by the loss of an anticipated biomass power contract.
- At the same time, we are seeing a significant change in how New Hampshire utilities purchase power. Traditionally, the utilities issued requests for proposals (RFPs) and entered contracts with suppliers to cover all of their anticipated power needs before the start of the rate period.

1 At the PUC's direction, they are shifting toward buying more and more of their power on ISO-  
2 New England daily markets. For the current (spring 2025) period, the utilities are purchasing  
3 only 70% of their power from RFPs and 30% from ISO-NE markets. At the PUC's request, the  
4 utilities including Unitil have proposed to purchase 50% from RFPs and 50% from ISO-NE daily  
5 markets in the next (fall 2025) rate period. They appear to be heading toward eventually  
6 purchasing 100% from the market. This approach can lead to lower but more volatile prices  
7 (volatile because the utilities are subject to much more pricing risk). When relying on daily  
8 market purchases, the utilities have to estimate their future energy purchases when they  
9 propose their rates so there is likely to be a large discrepancy between the utilities' estimated  
10 and actual power supply costs.

- 11 • The PUC also asked the utilities to propose a mechanism to charge or credit any energy supply  
12 under-collection or over-collection to all of their customers including community power  
13 customers through a stranded cost recovery charge. We anticipate that the utilities are more  
14 likely to underestimate their costs rather than overestimating them. They will be heavily  
15 incentivized to do so. If they do, Concord Community Power customers will both pay for their  
16 own energy supply through Concord Community Power but also a portion of the utilities' supply  
17 through this charge. This charge (if implemented) is unfair, anti-competitive and most likely  
18 illegal. It is also a direct threat to community power. Chair Werner filed a comment on behalf of  
19 the CEEAC at the PUC opposing the stranded cost idea.
- 20 • There are four separate open dockets at the PUC where the issues discussed will be decided.  
21 Hearings will be held over the coming weeks in DE 24-061 (proposal for Liberty to purchase  
22 50% from daily markets and recover under-collections, hearing March 31), DE 24-065  
23 (proposal for Unitil to purchase 50% from daily markets and to recover under-collections from  
24 all customers via the stranded cost recovery charge, hearing April 2), DE 24-046 (proposal for  
25 Eversource to purchase 50% from daily markets, hearing April 10) and DE 24-112 (proposal to  
26 allow Eversource to recover under-collections from all customers via the stranded cost  
27 recovery charge, hearing May 8). CPCNH, several competitive electric suppliers and the Office  
28 of the Consumer Advocate are actively participating in these dockets.
- 29 • HB 760, a bill to bar the PUC from approving a cost-shift along the lines discussed above, was  
30 voted inexpedient to legislate on a party line vote (10-8) by the House Science, Technology and  
31 Energy Committee on 3/10/25. Some of us filed comments opposing the bill.
- 32 • CPCNH's CEO Brian Callnan departed his position effective March 1. CPCNH appointed Henry  
33 Herndon of Concord to serve as Acting General Manager. See attached statement from CPCNH  
34 about these changes.
- 35 • The CPCNH Board of Directors met on 2/27/25 and will meet again on 3/27/25.
- 36 • The CEEAC Community Power Adder working group met on March 17 and discussed the  
37 possibility of an adder and related issues. We hope to meet again in April.



February 28, 2025

### **CPCNH Board Appoints Acting General Manager**

On Thursday, February 27, 2025, the CPCNH Board of Directors voted 15-0 to appoint Henry Herndon as Acting General Manager, starting March 1, to help lead the organization through its next phase of operations and service.

In this role, Herndon will coordinate staff, contractors, and resources to ensure CPCNH's continued success. His focus will be on facilitating collaboration across departments and service provider teams, enhancing transparency, and supporting informed decision-making by the Board and staff. This appointment provides stability and continuity during CPCNH's leadership transition.

CPCNH Board Vice Chair Lisa Sweet highlighted Herndon's leadership and commitment to CPCNH's mission: "As Chair of our Member Outreach and Engagement Committee, I have worked closely with Henry over the past three years as we have launched and scaled CPCNH. He is an effective and respected leader among staff and vendors, wholly dedicated to advancing the interests of our member communities."

Sweet added, "Additionally, the Board expresses its support and appreciation of CPCNH staff's professionalism and collective leadership."

Herndon expressed his ongoing commitment to CPCNH core values: "My role is to foster clarity and alignment across our operations, ensuring that our dedicated staff, Board, and members have the resources and information they need to succeed. I am committed to upholding CPCNH's principles of transparency, collaboration, and community empowerment, enabling informed decisions that best serve our communities. Over the next few months, I look forward to working with our staff, Board and communities to optimize our operations and ensure that CPCNH continues to offer more energy choices, increased local control and competitive rates to our member communities."

At the February 27 Board meeting Chair Clifton Below announced that Brian Callnan would be departing as CEO with this statement:

"As we approach our third year of services being delivered to our members, our CEO, Brian Callnan, has decided with the agreement of CPCNH to step aside on February 28, 2025, to allow CPCNH to begin its next chapter with new leadership at the helm. While at CPCNH, Brian helped grow the staff to eight talented employees and expanded contractor and service providers to meet our growing organizational needs. Brian will be focusing on recently discovered family health



issues while looking forward to what new opportunities are uncovered in the future. CPCNH’s staff and contractors will ensure member services and operations are performed effectively.”

The [announcement](#) can also be found online at [cpcnh.org/news](http://cpcnh.org/news).

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*The Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH) is a public power agency serving a membership of ~70 New Hampshire cities, towns, and counties and ~200,000 electric customers. Governed by communities, for communities, CPCNH works to lower energy costs, expand clean options, and give local governments a stronger voice in state energy decisions. The Coalition fosters collaboration, supports innovative energy projects and programs, and advocates on behalf of consumer interests and the collective voice of our members. Focused on transparency, sustainability, and community empowerment, CPCNH ensures all New Hampshire residents benefit from affordable, reliable, and locally guided energy solutions.*