



**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**

**May 28, 2025 @ 6:30PM**

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**37 Green Street (2nd Floor) - Concord, NH 03301**

**Attendees:**

**Committee Members:**

Chair Rob Werner, Councilor Stacey Brown, Dot Currier, Chuck Willing, Miriah King, Joe Kwasnik, Councilor Jeffrey Foote, Nick Babladelis, Thomas Kolling

**Absent Members:**

Gerald Eaton, Allen Desbiens, Jeffrey Evans

**Staff Present:**

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

**1. Welcome by Chair Werner**

Chair Werner welcomed those in attendance. The Committee made introductions and welcomed newly appointed member Thomas Kolling.

**2. Adoption of Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Willing and duly seconded by Ms. Currier to adopt the minutes of March 26, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. Municipal Project Updates**

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

Ms. Fenstermacher reported the easement with Unitil for the relocation of the transmission line is completed and has been recorded. Unitil has started tree work for the relocation of the line. Kearsarge Solar submitted all the final documents to D.E.S. for the Tier 1B permit for building on the capped landfill, and staff anticipates the permit will be issued by mid-June. The Alteration of Terrain (A.O.T.) permit has been issued and the project went before the Planning Board the previous week and the Board had no comments. Staff expects the Planning Board to sign off in the next few weeks after reviewing staff comments to amend the plan. The City Assessor is finalizing the PILOT agreement and work on the group net metering agreement continues. Kearsarge is working with the Concord school district to get signatures to finalize their agreement. Anticipated construction start date is end of summer and completed by end of winter.

Mr. Willing inquired about additional offtakers for the group net-metering, and if there is any update on that discussion. Ms. Fenstermacher reported no new information locally but she had reached out to Clean Energy NH for a connection near the Seacoast area to work directly with Kearsarge.

Counselor Brown recognized Ms. Fenstermacher for her knowledge and responsiveness to questions regarding the Kearsarge project.

1 **West Portsmouth Street Solar Project (Lodestar)**

2 Chair Werner reported he spoke to Jamie Smith of Lodestar, developer of the W. Portsmouth St. solar project, and  
3 they are moving forward with the construction phases this summer and they expect to have their ribbon cutting  
4 April/May 2026. Lodestar is a 5-megawatt project located off W. Portsmouth Street by the Merrimack River. He  
5 reported the Lodestar project has three offtakers for their group net-metering agreement: State of NH, McAuliffe-  
6 Shepard Discovery Center, and Exeter School District.

7 Chair Werner reports that the completion of the two solar project brings 10 megawatts of solar power within the City  
8 of Concord borders in the next year.

9 Discussion ensued regarding, tariffs, solar investment tax credit (ITC), and inflation reduction act (IRA).

10  
11 **4. COMMUNITY POWER**

12 **Community Power Coalition Policy Update**

13 Mr. Willing distributed and reviewed a Community Power report to the CEEAC dated May 28, 2025. This report is  
14 attached.

15 Mr. Willing reported the PUC issued an order in which they denied Unutil's proposal to transfer its reconciliation  
16 balances (under-collection and over-collection of default energy service charges) to its Stranded Cost Recovery  
17 Charge. A copy of the State of New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Order No. 28,148 dated May 20,  
18 2025 order is attached. This default energy service charge would apply to all of their customers, including  
19 Community Power customers. Community Power customer would pay the Community Power charge and the  
20 additional Unutil default energy service charge.

21 Mr. Willing reported the PUC has open dockets for each of the utilities for approval of their proposed rates for the  
22 August 1, 2025-January 31, 2026 rate period. He reported 50% of the utilities' energy supply will be procured from  
23 the market over the course of the rate period, so those future market supply costs will be estimated in the utilities'  
24 filings. The proposed rates will be revealed at different points in early June, with a PUC decision anticipated  
25 (following a hearing) within a week or two after the filings. Late next month, CPCNH will decide on its own rates for  
26 that rate period.

27 Mr. Willing reported Ms. Fenstermacher is now serving on the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire  
28 (CPCNH) Governance and Member Outreach and Engagement Committees and he is serving on CPCNH ad hoc  
29 Executive Leadership Search Committee as chair, an alternate on the Finance Committee, the Risk Management  
30 Committee, and the Board of Directors. Mr. Willing reported the Executive Leadership Search Committee is charged  
31 with developing and recommending a process that will lead to hiring new, permanent staff, which we will hopefully  
32 make later this year.

33 Mr. Willing reported CPCNH elected a new board leadership team headed by Kimberley Quirk of Enfield as board  
34 chair for the coming year.

35 Mr. Willing reported the CEEAC Community Power Adder working group has not met since March. He will be  
36 reaching out to the other members of the group to schedule time in hopes to have recommendations before the  
37 February 1 rate period.

38 Chair Werner inquired about HB760 and if the PUC order subsumes the proposed bill. Mr. Willing reported he  
39 believed that HB760 will not move forward now that the PUC has made this order.

40  
41 **5. POLICY AND PROJECT UPDATES**

42 **Earth Day Town Hall – April 21, 2025 Debrief**

43 Chair Werner reported the Earth Day Town Hall was successful. The panel discussion was informative and attendees  
44 reported they were happy to learn about what the City of Concord, CEEAC committee and other committees have  
45 been working on. Chair Werner estimated that approximately 70 people attended the event. Keynote Speaker  
46 Congresswoman Goodlander and a senior from Concord High School that spoke had impactful messages and were  
47 well received by the community and local press.

48 Councilor Brown suggested making this an annual/biannual event. Ms. King reported the New Hampshire Energy  
49 Expo is October 18 and it would be an opportunity for the committee to get involved with this event.

50 Discussion ensued about future events, future panelist, and involvement from City committees.

51  
52 **UNH Sustainability Fellow (Summer, 2025)**

53 Chair Werner reported the UNH Sustainability Fellow Kayla Maggio has arrived. She is set to begin on June 2 after  
54 meeting with Chair Werner and Ms. Fenstermacher. Ms. Maggio will primarily work in the Clean Energy NH office and  
55 her focus will be greenhouse gas inventory updates with recommendations and fleet electrification policy research.

56 The completion date for this report is August 2025 and will be then presented to City Council.

1 Chair Werner reports he and Ms. Fenstermacher will be attending a launch event for all the Fellows where they will  
2 learn about what other fellows will be working on around the State.

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4 **6. New Business/Announcements**

5 Chair Werner reported he had met with local developer Steve Duprey and discussed Commercial Property Assessed  
6 Clean Energy or Resiliency (C-PACER). This was one of the first bills signed by Governor Ayotte making it easier for  
7 private sector developers to finance energy efficient housing projects. Chair Werner reported the key difference  
8 between the previous version and the newly signed version is New Hampshire Business Finance Authority will be  
9 running the program, providing technical assistance and taking on some of the financial risk. Chair Werner reported  
10 Mr. Duprey was involved in the writing of the bill and as a local developer he is looking to utilize the benefits. Mr.  
11 Duprey inquired if the City would be interested in participating. This would have to be approved by City Council due  
12 to the municipal assessment lien component of the bill.

13 Chair Werner reported he is interested in learning more about C-PACER and would request Business Finance  
14 Authority – Executive Director, James Key-Wallace to speak before the CEEAC committee.

15  
16 Ms. Fenstermacher reported in November 2024 she had applied for an EPA Brownfield grant to clean up the  
17 hazardous building materials at the Concord Stables building. The City has been awarded the \$678,000 grant, and is  
18 one of only two municipalities in New Hampshire to receive this grant. She reported, once the hazardous building  
19 material has been removed from the property it will be eligible for redevelopment.

20  
21 **7. Other Business**

22 Mr. Kwasnik requested the committee review the goals set forth over the previous years to ensure the committee is  
23 aligned with current climate of 2025. He feels the current goals for clean energy are achievable as they are written  
24 now. Mr. Werner agreed and added he would like to see how this fit into the City Master plan as well. Ms.

25 Fenstermacher reported the funding for the Master plan is expected to be appropriated in July for FY 2026. She  
26 reported it would be more beneficial to address the committee goals during the Master plan process. Ms.

27 Fenstermacher will report back after the July City Council meeting on the timing of the Master Plan.

28 Ms. Currier reported she is resigning from the committee. She delivered a farewell speech.

29 A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Babladelis and duly seconded by Ms. Currier. The motion passed unanimously.

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31 **8. Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 7:44 PM.

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34 Respectfully Submitted,

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36 Stephanie McKim

37 Administrative Coordinator – Development  
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**Community Power Report to CEEAC (May 28, 2025)**

- On May 20, the PUC issued an order in which they denied Unitil's proposal to transfer its reconciliation balances (under-collection and over-collection of default energy service charges) to its Stranded Cost Recovery Charge. A copy of the order is attached. The decision was pleasantly surprising, not to mention ironic because the PUC had asked Unitil to submit this proposal. In the end, the PUC was persuaded by CPCNH and others that allowing the utilities to cost-shift would do grave harm to the competitive electricity market. They were probably also persuaded by information discovered during the course of the proceeding that under-collections in the large customer group might not have been caused by community power and that the utilities had accumulated a significant amount of under-collections this winter when wholesale energy prices were high (the same dynamic that CPCNH suffered from) therefore the prospect of a cost-shift was likely to be high. In any event, this is a very welcome development. The retail energy supply market comprised of the utilities, community power programs and competitive electricity suppliers remains a relatively level playing field.
- Each of the utilities has an open docket at the PUC for approval of their proposed rates for the August 1, 2025-January 31, 2026 rate period. 50% of the utilities' energy supply will be procured from the market over the course of the rate period, so those future market supply costs will be estimated in the utilities' filings. The proposed rates will be revealed at different points in early June, with a PUC decision anticipated (following a hearing) within a week or two after the filings. Late next month, CPCNH will decide on its own rates for that rate period.
- In the order discussed above, Unitil was ordered to factor its current reconciliation balances (for which the cost otherwise would have been shifted) into the requested energy supply rates that it will propose for its customers for the upcoming rate period. That factor is likely to bump up Unitil's rate a bit higher than what it otherwise would have been.
- Beth and I have taken on significant CPCNH committee assignments for the upcoming year. Beth serves on the Governance and Member Outreach and Engagement Committees. I am chairing the new Projects & Programs Committee and serving on the Risk Management Committee. I am also chairing an ad hoc Executive Leadership Search Committee and serve as an alternate on the Finance Committee.
- CPCNH is engaged in a process that will result in hiring new, permanent CPCNH staff leadership. Our Executive Leadership Search Committee is charged with developing and recommending a process that will lead to those hires, which we will hopefully make later this year.
- The CPCNH annual membership meeting was held on 4/24/25. New board members were elected (board members serve 3-year terms, about 1/3 of the board is up for election each year). The new board of directors then met after the membership meeting and elected a new board leadership team headed by Kimberley Quirk of Enfield as board chair for the coming year. The board will meet again on 5/29/25 (tomorrow).
- The CEEAC Community Power Adder working group has not met since March but hopefully will meet again soon.