



NORTHAMPTON ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 13, 2026 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Location: HybridMeeting, City Council Chambers, 212 Main St.

Voting Members Present: Carolyn Misch, Eric Winkler, Ben Weil, Louis Hasbrouck, Rachel Flynn-Kasuba, Katie Deppen, Angie Gregory, Richard Parasiliti, Gwenevra Lodi Nabad, and Christopher Caleb Stratton

4:00 PM Ben Weil opened the meeting with public comment.

Public Comments: Please see below.

AGENDA

- Public comment period – Helen Seidler hopes the commission has more of a community presence, and concentrates on tackling food waste and landscaping equipment. Denise Lello and other members of Mothers Out Front and Northampton Climate Emergency Coalition will identify and present opportunities for NESC to review resolutions and ordinances, and then forward them to the City Councilor for adoption. Tina Cornell and Cindy Fand are trying to organize a home energy tour, a business clean energy tour, and do educational events to spend the remainder of the grant money.
- Review/Approve Minutes – Carolyn Misch moved to approve, seconded by Angie Gregory. Minutes approved. Eric Winkler, Richard Parasiliti, Gwenevra Lodi Nabad, and Christopher Caleb Stratton abstained.
- Free discussion to set an overall agenda for the coming year. Invitation for members to freely discuss and propose priorities for the commission for 2026 - Eric Winkler would like to see more transparency regarding Valley Green Energy and have NESC clarify products such as demand response. He is also interested in discussing stormwater charges. Gwenevra Lodi Nabad brought up the issues of broken EV chargers and residents on LIHEAP not getting credited from utility companies when they buy into solar. Rachel Flynn-Kasuba hopes CAPA can identify the next areas to tackle after City buildings and showcase the work that has already been done. Carolyn Misch thinks the City should prioritize inhouse operations before imposing regulations on the public. Christopher Caleb Stratton wants to focus on renewable energy credits, the building code as it relates to PV, and how expanded bus service compares to private car trips. Angie Gregory also wants to focus on an organics ban, how food waste is dealt with, food recovery, and possible multiple locations for a resiliency hub. Alex Bowman wants NESC to focus on expanding the All Ages and Abilities network. Gavin Grant hopes we do not wait for the City operations to ban gas-powered leaf blowers. He would also like people to contact the state about the lead air pollution from the airport.
- Update on NHS Geothermal - CAPA will submit an application for geothermal at the H.S. as part of the Green School Works Grant. We are authorized to borrow money for this project, and we hope to use short term bonding until the tax credits are received. We hope to do the test well in the spring, and construction over the summer. Parking at the H.S. will be limited during construction. The procurement will be through Chapter 25A, section 11, which will allow us to do a turnkey. A contract is expected by March. Angie suggested parking at the Colley Dickinson hospital.
- Update on PV projects - CAPA is trying to add 120 kw AC to the roof at Ryan Rd Elementary School. The lawyers could not agree on contract terms in time for the New Year's Eve deadline, so the project may cost more or be designed differently with qualifying modules in order to receive the

full tax credit. We will schedule a site visit with Solect so they can redesign the system and provide a new price and size. For Jackson St Elementary School, we plan to add a 250kw canopy over the parking lot. We have not received the contract yet, as the lawyers are still discussing the details, but that should be ready within a week. Solect already submitted the application to interconnect. EV chargers can be added to the canopy later on after the repaving of the parking lot occurs. Angie believes you can limit the amount of hours a charger is available for public use.

- Update on PV monitoring - We are still able to access our online monitoring platform despite the service expiring, so we do not need to renew the service at this time. All the PV is working as expected, except for SVAHS. Both the inverter and meter do not work consistently. Perhaps it makes sense for SVAHS to be more involved with the long term fix.
- Department head updates - Carolyn Misch of the Planning Department applied for MassDOT grants for the Valley Bike Share program. They should hear back within a couple of weeks. They have also worked with the planning board on modifications to the zoning to remove barriers for housing in urban districts. Richard Parasiliti and the DPW is reviewing proposed projects for 2026. Louis Hasbrouck of the Building Department notified NESC that the building code requires all new residential and apartment buildings to be pre-wired for solar. He provided Gabi a list of Mass Save training sessions to share with NESC. Katie Deppen and the Central Services department is planning and scheduling renovation and maintenance projects based on funding. At Forbes Library, they are renovating the children's department, and putting in a reversible chiller. They are also working with CAPA to review the feasibility of solar on the City Hall roof.

5:30 pm. Upon motion by Carolyn Misch and second by Richard Parasiliti, the committee voted to adjourn.

Voting Members: Carolyn Misch, Vice Chair • Katie Deppen • Gwenevra Lodi Nabad • Building Department (Louis Hasbrouck) • Christopher Caleb Stratton • Richard Parasiliti • Tim Smith • Ben Weil • Angie Gregory • Eric Winkler • Rachel Flynn-Kasuba

Staff advisor, non-voting: Energy and Sustainability Officer, Gabriella Fox