



ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE (ECC)

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 8, 2025

8:00 AM

Room 22, Parks & Rec Center

Members:

Paul Roth, Vice Chair
Maureen Nebenzahl
Gordon Leversee
Councilor Bryan Lake
Jude Nuru
Annu Joshi Bargale
Clair Oursler
Kenneth Swymer Jr.
Lisa Maxfield

Jake Pipp, Alternate
Chuck Redfern, Alternate
Rowland Russell, Alternate
Michael Winograd, Alternate

Staff:

Megan Fortson, Planner
Emily Duseau, Planning Technician

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call**
2. **Election of Chair & Vice Chair**
3. **Introduction of New Members**
4. **Approval of Minutes** – December 4, 2024
5. **Community Power Presentation** – Mari Brunner, Senior Planner; Elizabeth Dragon, City Manager; & Bob Hayden, Standard Power
6. **Fine Particulate Matter Presentation** – Nora Traviss, PhD, Senior Scientist at NESCAUM & Henry Underwood, Southwest Region Planning Commission
7. **2025 Monadnock Region Earth Day Festival**
8. **2025 Meeting Schedule & Retreat Updates**
9. **Work Group Report Outs**
 - a. Community Solar
 - b. Grants, Fundraising, and Partnerships
 - c. Education and Outreach
 - d. Legislative Tracking
 - e. Food Security
10. **New Business**
11. **Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 at 8:00 am

Link to ECC Google Drive Folder:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1O1WIR0fADTNijRt13v3DU7k2FwxXDcGs?usp=sharing>

1 **City of Keene**
2 **New Hampshire**

3
4
5 **ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE**
6 **MEETING MINUTES**
7

Wednesday, December 4, 2024

8:00 AM

Room 22, Recreation Center

Members Present:

Zach Luse, Chair
Paul Roth, Vice Chair
Councilor Bryan Lake
Diana Duffy
Lisa Maxfield
Gordon Leverage
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Voting)
Jake Pipp, Alternate (Voting)
Jude Nuru
Charles Redfern, Alternate

Staff Present:

Megan Fortson, Planner
Emily Duseau, Planning Technician

Members Not Present:

Clair Oursler
Kenneth Swymer Jr.
Annu Joshi Bargale
Michael Winograd, Alternate

8
9 **1) Call to Order and Roll Call**

10
11 Chair Luse called the meeting to order at 8:07 AM. Dr. Rowland Russell & Jake Pipp were invited
12 to participate as a voting member.

13
14 **2) Approval of Minutes – November 6, 2024**

15
16 Councilor Bryan Lake moved to approve the minutes of the prior meeting. Chair Luse asked for
17 any discussion. Dr. Rowland Russell corrected the food security work group report out, clarifying
18 that it includes Antioch University of New England’s Community Garden Connections program,
19 the Monadnock Farm and Community Coalition, and the Cheshire County Conservation District.
20 He also noted that the targeted population is immigrant and refugee populations.

21
22 With no other corrections and all in favor, the minutes from November 6, 2024, were approved.

23
24 **3) Presentation - Josh Meehan, Keene Housing Executive Director**
25

26 Chair Luse noted that Mr. Meehan was invited to share an overview of his work and the
27 achievements made under his leadership at Keene Housing. He mentioned hearing positive
28 feedback about Keene Housing's initiatives, particularly regarding solar energy and heat pump
29 projects. Chair Luse welcomed Mr. Meehan.

30
31 Mr. Meehan thanked the committee for the invitation and said it was good timing. The organization
32 has a series of one-pagers on its website outlining its different focus areas, and it recently
33 completed a refresher on energy conservation. He explained that Keene Housing owns and
34 operates around 600 units, primarily of residential housing. They have a few regional commercial
35 units, some in Swanzey and some outside Keene. All of their residential properties are income-
36 specific. They depend on federal assistance to cover operating costs for many of their properties.
37 However, as one might expect, significant funding increases are unlikely. This requires them to
38 strategize and accept that federal subsidies will only partially keep pace with their expenses.
39 Residential contribution through rent is fixed based on income, so Keene Housing's budget is
40 fixed.

41
42 To keep 600 units in good shape for the next several generations, Keene Housing has had to
43 consider reducing its operating costs, as that is one of the few things it can control. One of their
44 most significant sources of cost is energy. Mr. Meehan explained that in 2014, they benchmarked
45 their entire portfolio using a third-party consultant they hired and are still working with. This
46 entailed looking at Keene Housing's water and energy consumption and benchmarking against
47 similar properties in the same region. A grade was given for the entire portfolio, which allowed
48 them to identify areas for improvement in their various buildings to improve performance and
49 decrease operating costs. This propelled them along, and in 2014 or 2015, they committed, as an
50 organization, to become carbon-neutral by 2035. The bottom line drove these portfolio adaptations
51 and has served as the most significant catalyst, but they also recognize that multi-family housing
52 has a large carbon footprint.

53
54 Keene Housing knew they had to make these improvements and started by pursuing the low-
55 hanging fruit, such as improving building envelopes, installing low-flow toilets, and replacing old
56 lighting with updated LED lighting. He was glad to report that they had made significant progress
57 since 2014 in those areas. By addressing the building envelopes and water consumption, they could
58 start envisioning ways to augment their electricity by generating their own. He noted that there is
59 also a resiliency piece to that, and it helps propel them toward their goal of being carbon-neutral
60 by 2035.

61
62 Mr. Meehan said one of the big questions he frequently gets asked is how they find the money for
63 these improvements. He explained that there is a non-profit in New Hampshire called Resilient
64 Builder's Group (RBG). They go between portable housing providers like Keene Housing and
65 other programs available to property owners to green up their properties. He mentioned their
66 Harmony Lane property, noting that many properties will need to be improved in a similar fashion
67 in the future. Several of the residential units use Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) for heating.
68 Electric Thermal Storage (ETS) units are heaters that store heat using rocks stored inside the unit
69 so that heat can be released during necessary times, such as during the evenings. He explained that
70 this is an antiquated technology that Keene Housing is trying to remove from existing units and

71 replace with mini-splits, which can be used for both heating and cooling. The installation of these
72 units also helps to further Keene Housing’s climate resilience initiatives.

73
74 When they’ve made these replacements previously, they used funds from the New Hampshire
75 Saves Commission, which paid for the whole million-dollar conversion of twenty-eight units from
76 ETS to air source heat pumps. It involved significant engineering and the installation of new
77 infrastructure. Following the conversion, they also installed rooftop solar arrays on some of their
78 properties. They aim to convert any properties with the ETS units to air-source heat pumps and
79 add solar. This allows them to generate their own electricity to offset their demand on the grid.

80
81 Mr. Meehan explained that they while had been previously successful utilizing the New Hampshire
82 Saves program, unfortunately, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) seems to have gutted it. It
83 has rebounded, but the program is still in significant flux from their perspective. Keene Housing
84 also has two other big projects involving the replacement of ETS units on their radar. They had
85 the RBG crew out last week, and they are hoping a deal can be struck because Eversource has
86 money for those projects.

87
88 This concluded Mr. Meehan’s presentation. He stated that he was happy to answer any questions
89 that the Committee may have. Mr. Roth asked if Keene Housing used Energy Star. Mr. Meehan
90 responded yes and explained their consultant uses data from Energy Star to perform their
91 benchmarking each year, which makes it significantly more straightforward. Mr. Luse asked Mr.
92 Meehan what firm they use. Mr. Meehan responded that they use Nova Consulting, which was
93 previously only operating out of Portland, Maine, but which is now a national company. Mr. Luse
94 asked if RBG did any energy audits. Mr. Meehan explained that they also do other assessments
95 and monitoring.

96
97 Mr. Meehan explained that the largest source of financing for new income-based housing is the
98 low-income housing tax credit program, administered by the New Hampshire Housing Finance
99 Authority (NIFA) and done through RBG.

100
101 Ms. Diana Duffy asked if Mr. Meehan happened to know the combined square footage of all of
102 the Keene Housing properties, to which he responded no. She followed up by asking whether it
103 was online somewhere. While it was unavailable online, he did have the numbers, just not off the
104 top of his head. She explained that it would help to give her some perspective on the numbers he
105 was providing.

106
107 Mr. Peter Hansel asked Mr. Meehan to reiterate his previous explanation of the data collection and
108 shared that the ECC needs help with data collection and monitoring. Mr. Hansel said his second
109 question was about using battery storage in the future. Mr. Meehan responded that it all depends
110 on what happens next in Congress. He explained that one of the significant funds coming to New
111 Hampshire is “*Solar for All*,” which he believed came out of the Inflation Reduction Act. He
112 explained that a couple of big pieces of legislation brought a lot of potential funding into the green
113 space and renewable energy space, and a large piece of that is the “*Solar for All*” program. He
114 explained that New Hampshire applied and was awarded a decent amount.

115

116 After receiving the money, each state then creates a program to distribute those funds, and battery
117 storage is included as an eligible use for Solar for All funding. He understood that if that does
118 move forward, housing authorities are set aside in the Solar for All program as extracted by the
119 state. They would like to pursue some of that funding for battery storage, but he noted that he does
120 not know the technology well enough to feel confident in it.

121
122 Mr. Meehan explained that they have found in their family properties with solar, 2/3 of the energy
123 they generate is being sold back to the grid because the residents are away when generating the
124 electricity. It is a net gain for them and a net gain for the grid, but it is not necessarily offsetting
125 their energy consumption in the way they want.

126
127 Chair Luse asked if they had demand charges. Mr. Meehan said they pay the demand fee, but do
128 not get it back when they sell electricity. Mr. Luse responded that direct use would save them
129 money, to which Mr. Meehan agreed. Mr. Meehan added that they do not buy default, so they are
130 not getting as much energy. If they sold it back, they would buy everything and must bid out
131 everything as part of a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), which is new information they just
132 learned and still need to consider. Mr. Luse asked if Mr. Meehan thought there would be
133 opportunities to participate with the Community Power Program.

134
135 Mr. Hansel asked Mr. Meehan if they had utilized any funds targeted for Community Solar Arrays
136 as has been done in Illinois. Mr. Meehan explained that RBG is not a part of solar, and as Keene
137 Housing moves more and more to solar, they need to find new financing and funding sources.
138 Solar PPT is in the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) program and is what they have been doing. He
139 explained that a New Hampshire statute previously required benefits to impact Low to moderate-
140 income (LMI) households directly. The Department of Energy's Council interpreted this to mean
141 that if a landlord pays the utility bills, any cost savings or property improvements resulting from
142 those savings do not count as a direct benefit to the tenant.

143
144 As a result, they kept applying for the Department of Energy community solar grant and were
145 denied because Keene Housing paid for all of the utilities. He explained that while the federal
146 government recognized this in their program, the state did not. They applied twice. The
147 Department of Energy, Senator Kloka from the seacoast, and Keene Housing worked together to
148 introduce a bill last year that changed the statute to align with the federal law for direct benefit
149 when landlords pay all the utilities. Once that passed, Keene Housing applied again and received
150 a \$400,000 grant to help them with five more rooftop solar arrays slated for 2025.

151
152 Keene Housing is waiting to hear back about a study being done about the installation of a potential
153 large ground-mounted solar array at one of their Swanzey, New Hampshire, properties. He added
154 that the other significant funding source for them is the Solar Income Tax Credit Program and
155 explained that the program also changed through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Non-profits
156 with no tax income could not pursue tax credits, such as solar tax credits, because they had no
157 taxable income. A small change in the IRA, which was meaningful, now allows the non-profit to
158 receive the value of the credit that they otherwise would have been eligible for. He believes Keene

159 Housing might be the first in New Hampshire to go after this and could receive \$770,000 in tax
160 credits. That, plus the DOE Solar Grant, is what they would use to pay for the installation of both
161 rooftop and ground-mounted solar arrays. He noted, however, that they still have a big gap that
162 they need to fill.

163
164 Chair Luse asked Mr. Meehan if they had a grant writer to administer all of these grants or if they
165 were getting technical assistance from other organizations. Mr. Meehan explained that it was a
166 combination of the two. Most of their solar work so far has been with ReVision Energy. Keene
167 Housing is publicly funded in part and is subject to the code of Federal Regulations Part 200,
168 which outlines procurement rules. Any time they intend to use federal funds to buy anything, they
169 must submit a request for proposals (RFP). ReVision helped them with the ITC grant because it is
170 familiar to them and is also included in their work for their clients. He explained that they have an
171 another person who works for Cheshire County and has been a grant writer in Keene for 40 years
172 who also helps them.

173
174 Mr. Bruce Norland wanted to comment on battery technology, saying it has improved
175 dramatically. Mr. Roth asked what the turnaround on the money was. Mr. Meehan responded that
176 the advantage they have is that their grant writer is good, and they have been very successful at
177 finding sources of funding to help offset their costs. Generally, his board has a consensus that ten
178 years is about as far as they want to go out in terms of getting a return on their investment.

179
180 Dr. Russell asked Mr. Meehan if they were planning any new properties. Mr. Meehan explained
181 that they are currently redeveloping the old Roosevelt School on Washington Street to turn it into
182 apartments. That property is under construction for phase one. The funding application is in for
183 phase two, which will include the construction of a new building with rooftop solar. The challenge
184 for them is that most of the equity for these deals is produced from low-income housing tax credit
185 programs administered by the Department of Finance.

186
187 He explained that these programs tend to be very conservative and have total development cost
188 caps. This requires them to value engineering things you ordinarily would not want to in order to
189 allow for the installation of solar arrays. For each project, they asked for a waiver of the total
190 development cost to allow them to do the solar, and they agreed to it. Mr. Meehan said one area
191 that needs growth is public entities that are helping to finance housing production and thinking
192 about and allowing for additional costs associated with renewable energy.

193
194 Mr. Hansel stated that he believes Keene Housing is at the forefront of this and asked if they were
195 being asked to advise other organizations around the state or country. Mr. Meehan said they have
196 been asked a little, but not as much as they would like. In the state, he explained that Keene
197 Housing participates in a federal demonstration program called the "*Moving Toward Deregulation*
198 *Demonstration.*" He explained that it is a way of saying we have a degree of flexibility with our
199 funding at the local level. They get money from Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
200 Department to run their section eight voucher program.

201

202 He explained that they have a degree of flexibility with financing and can use funds in a way that
203 allows them to be much more aggressive than most housing authorities can be. He shared that
204 Congress expanded this program in 2016, and New Hampshire now has more moving-to-work
205 public housing authorities per capita than any state in the country, which means he hopes to start
206 to see more flexibility in the future. Keene Housing has been at it for twenty-five years, and getting
207 the sea legs in that environment takes a little time. He believes more housing authorities will begin
208 to have increasing flexibility to start thinking differently about things.

209
210 Mr. Roth asked how Mr. Meehan has dealt with New Hampshire Saves' interest in saving money
211 versus improving energy consumption. Mr. Meehan reiterated that the first time they dealt with
212 them was great, but because of the changes from the PUC, he still feels the program is on its heels.
213 He explained that they have two large ETS conversion projects coming up. One is ready to go with
214 all the engineering having been completed five years ago. If NH Saves agrees to funding, Keene
215 Housing must return to the drawing board because everything has changed in those five years. He
216 keeps darkening their door with these two projects and is hoping to soon hear that they are good
217 to go, but he wants confirmation that they can do what they wanted do before.

218
219 He noted that the only costs Keene Housing has been responsible for was the installation of
220 concrete pads on the sides of the building to allow for the installation of mechanical equipment as
221 well as the addition of a fence. NH Saves offered half of the project cost last year, which left Keene
222 Housing with \$500,000 and the need to decide between that or the school project, which would
223 add thirty additional housing units to a community with a significant housing need. He said their
224 responsibility is to choose the housing. Chair Luse thanked Mr. Meehan, and Mr. Meehan thanked
225 the committee for inviting him and having him speak.

226
227 Mr. Nuru said he believed Mr. Meehan was humble in asserting that he was not a national leader.
228 He said that in New Hampshire, there is no housing authority with programs they are pursuing,
229 like Keene Housing, and he shared that he knows Mr. Meehan has inspired colleagues across the
230 state. He shared that Dover has taken inspiration from Keene Housing and believes that he was, in
231 fact, a national leader.

232
233 Mr. Nuru shared that the company he works for, ReVision Energy, got a grant for a non-profit
234 organization in Nashua that was supposed to build a solar array that would benefit low-income
235 community members. Unfortunately, the Zoning Board did not approve the project, so they are
236 now looking for a site elsewhere in Eversource territory. The non-profit is willing to site the
237 community solar project anywhere in New Hampshire within the Eversource territory and give the
238 power to about five low-income residents. He shared this with the ECC, saying if they can get a
239 parcel of land or something, they can move the project to our community, and maybe the power
240 could go to Keene Housing.

241
242 Mr. Nuru noted that there is time to decide, as it only needs to be done in February. This would be
243 for a 500 kW system, which would require approximately ½-acre of land. The award was made
244 last year, and they have twenty-four months to develop the project. They went through a lot of

245 legal processes, including hiring an attorney. They applied for a variance, but that was also denied.
246 The money is sitting with the Department of Energy. The funds must be returned to the DOE at
247 the end of the time period, if they are still looking for a new location. Chair Luse thanked Mr. Nuru
248 for sharing. Mr. Meehan thanked everyone again and excused himself for the remainder of the
249 meeting.

250

251 **4) Meeting Schedule Updates**

252

253 Chair Luse asked Ms. Megan Fortson if she had been able to come up with some times. She
254 responded that if they wanted to continue to meet in their new location, it would have to be on a
255 Thursday at 4 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. Chair Luse asked if there were other options, to which Ms. Fortson
256 explained that the second-floor conference room at City Hall was also available, and a Tuesday or
257 Wednesday would likely be the best bet for availability, noting that there is often availability at
258 the beginning of the month.

259

260 Councilor Lake asked whether this was for a new meeting time. Chair Luse explained that several
261 people would like to join the committee, but the current meeting day/time is not feasible for them.
262 He said that it often does not work for Mr. Roth, and the day/time has been a challenge for as long
263 as he has been on the committee. As such, they wanted to explore some alternative meeting times.

264

265 Mr. Gordon Leverage asked if sending out a scheduling app for people to provide input was
266 possible. Chair Luse explained that Ms. Fortson had tried asking people to offer their available
267 times, which did not work as it was too broad and did not narrow down the times. His idea was to
268 find the available times to use the current room or City Hall and then put those on a poll for people
269 to provide input.

270

271 Chair Luse offered to work with Megan on available times and create a poll to send out regarding
272 possible options. Ms. Fortson polled the group and determined that the preference is Monday
273 through Thursday, with no preferences on location. Chair Luse suggested the beginning or end of
274 the day, stating that the middle of the day is hard. Others agreed. Ms. Duffy suggested the end of
275 the day, saying that any time after 3 pm generally works for her.

276

277 Ms. Duffy thanked Ms. Fortson for getting the room today, saying it was nice to have the additional
278 space. Ms. Fortson said she would create a list of possible times and send it out.

279

280 **5) Adoption of the 2025 Meeting Schedule**

281

282 Chair Luse explained that the Committee has to adopt the schedule for next year, knowing there is
283 a good chance it could change and they may have to vote to approve it again. He noted that the
284 only change to the normal meeting schedule was for the month of January. He noted that the
285 meeting will be held the second Wednesday of the month on January 8th due to the start of the new
286 year. The remainder of the schedule remains the same.

287

288 Councilor Lake moved to adopt the meeting schedule for 2025, which would be on the first
289 Wednesday of the month, except for January, which would be on the 8th. Mr. Jake Pipp seconded
290 the motion. With no discussion and unanimous approval, the motion was approved.

291 **6) 2025 ECC Retreat Discussion**

292

293 Chair Luse asked if a time in April worked for everyone. He said he just needed to avoid the school
294 break and noted that previous retreats have typically been three hours long. Mr. Pipp noted that it
295 always seems like they need more time to finish discussions. With no one voicing dates to avoid
296 besides school break, Chair Luse tasked Ms. Fortson with pulling together some potential dates
297 for the retreat.

298

299 **7) Interest in Presentation on Fine Particulate Matter Pollution**

300

301 Chair Luse wanted to gauge whether anyone was interested in having a presenter attend an
302 upcoming meeting to discuss fine particulate matter. Chair Luse believed the most significant
303 contributor to this type of pollution in the area is typically from wood stoves. Previously, there
304 was a local a wood stove change out program that offered a rebate for upgrading to a more efficient
305 wood stove.

306

307 Chair Luse said Tim Murphy, former Executive Director of Southwest Region Planning
308 Commission (SWRPC), had suggested Henry Underwood, a Senior Planner at SWRPC, as
309 someone with subject matter knowledge. He was unsure if this fell in the ECC's climate and energy
310 space, but he wanted to mention it.

311

312 Dr. Russell had another suggestion, noting that an article on this topic in the Sentinel had quoted
313 Ms. Michele Chalice and Dr. Nora Travis. He stated that Dr. Travis knows of and has been working
314 in the woodstove space for some time. He urged Chair Luse to look for that article as it was a
315 source of good information about what is happening in Keene. Chair Luse highlighted that Keene
316 is just below the EPA guidelines due to the geographic bowl it sits in. Ms. Duffy added that she
317 feels like many people need to learn about the attainment levels. She felt that was one of the
318 motivating factors for the college to get in front of it. She has yet to hear much in the world of
319 attainment. Ms. Duffy felt that having a presentation like this in January would be timely. Chair
320 Luse agreed and said his understanding was that much can be gained through awareness. Dr. Russell
321 suggested inviting both to speak.

322

323 **8) Work Group Report Outs**

324

325 **A) Community Solar**

326

327 Mr. Nuru reported that they had one meeting with a reporter from the Keene Sentinel, Elijah de
328 Castro. Mr. Nuru invited him to attend their meeting to discuss ServiceLink. Mr. Nuru felt it would
329 be beneficial to have this talk with the entire group and suggested it to Chair Luse. They also spoke

330 about contacting the YMCA to see if they would consider solar for their facility. Mr. Nuru invited
331 Mr. Hansel to add to the report out,

332
333 Mr. Hansel explained that Elijah is a new writer at the Sentinel and is much more solutions-based
334 than writers they have had in the past. Mr. Hansel believed he attended with some skepticism, but
335 by the end of the meeting, it seemed that the workgroup had something to offer. Mr. Hansel praised
336 Elijah's thoroughness in his article and urged anyone interested to read it. He believed it
337 demonstrated that he was looking to solve problems as much as to record them.

338
339 **B) Grants, Fundraising and Partnerships**

340
341 Mr. Charles Redfern said he was still looking for an email and questioned Ms. Fortson about
342 whether she had received the email he sent a few days prior. Mr. Redfern explained that NH Saves
343 has a composition of program offerings. He thought it might be interesting for committee members
344 to receive a categorized synopsis of everything they do and hoped it might spark some ideas. With
345 permission from the Chair, he planned to send the document to committee members.

346
347 **C) Education and Outreach**

348
349 Chair Luse shared that they followed up with Mary and Megan, and he believed Emily was going
350 to be working on the ECC brochure. The content was already created, and she will work on putting
351 it into Canva and adding the City's branding. He hopes to have that in the next few weeks.

352
353 He explained that they decided to hold off on the Community Power brochure because by the time
354 they put it together, they would be discussing renegotiating the rates for the program, and things
355 would likely change. Mr. Luse shared that Carolyn Jones is stepping down from participating in
356 the workgroup. She still plans to attend meetings when available. Members commented that she is
357 a wealth of information and will be greatly missed.

358
359 **D) Legislative Tracking**

360
361 Councilor Lake shared that their schedules did not align this month and that they needed help
362 finding a time to meet. He expects his work schedule to calm down after the holidays and
363 anticipates having an update for the next meeting.

364
365 **E) Food Security**

366
367 Dr. Russell shared that their food systems group planned to meet later that afternoon. He shared
368 that the group has been working on administratively supporting two surveys. The feasibility study
369 on commercial composting systems they worked on with Keene State has finished. They have yet
370 to see the data. They want to get the data to include in the assessment report that they plan to start
371 working on. He shared that they applied for a grant for the planning part, but got turned down and
372 have continued looking for more funding.

373

374 The other survey, which is for the community garden, closes at the end of this week. He is hoping
375 to get a good response. He added that Albert Diemand, founder of Elm City Compost, met with
376 them for the first of several meetings. He could not attend, but they hope a group of people
377 interested in working to make that happen will emerge and hope that will include involvement
378 from the City. Mr. Russell mentioned that Mr. Diemand is looking for someone to oversee the
379 organization.

380

381 Mr. Hansel added that one challenge Mr. Diemand faced was finding storage for his trucks and
382 trailers as well as also maintaining his full-time job. He believed he had solved the storage problem.
383 Mr. Hansel stated that founders of organizations like this tend to get burned out after a while
384 without significant support from the community, and he believed that Mr. Diemand is looking to
385 try to get more support from other people. Dr. Russell added that the new law takes related to
386 commercial composting will go into effect on February 1st, which will only ramp this up.

387

388 **9) New Business**

389

390 There was no new business discussed.

391

392 **10) Next meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 8:00 am**

393

394 **11) Adjournment**

395

396 With no further business, Chair Luse adjourned the meeting at 9:05 AM.

397

398 Respectfully submitted by,
399 Amanda Trask, Minute Taker

400

401 Reviewed and edited by,
402 Megan Fortson, Planner

From: [Mari Brunner](#)
To: [Zach Luse](#); [Paul Roth](#)
Cc: [Megan Fortson](#); [Emily Duseau](#)
Subject: FW: Monadnock Region Earth Festival 2025
Date: Monday, December 23, 2024 8:23:11 AM
Attachments: [Outlook-20y4govp.png](#)

Hi All,

Please see the forwarded email for information about the 2025 Earth Festival. It's never too early to plan for Earth Day! ... but maybe you can take a look at this after the holidays

Hope you all have a wonderful holidays, and we'll see you in the New Year!

Mari

From: Talee Messenger, Events & Outreach Coordinator

Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 8:19 AM

Subject: Monadnock Region Earth Festival 2025

Hello!

I am contacting you today to cordially invite you to the 2025 Monadnock Region Earth Day Festival! Plans are underway for another fun-filled Earth Day celebration. This year's event will take place on **April 26, 2025 from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

The event will be set up like in years past, with vendors tabling from Railroad Square, along the bike path, back to the amphitheater, and following the sidewalk around the lot next to the co-op. There will also be space in front of the co-op and a handful of spots inside the store for vendors as well. We would love for you to participate in whatever capacity most suits your organization – whether that is selling goods, providing education for our community, promoting your non-profit, or sampling products you make.

Everyone will need to provide their own table and tabling supplies and it is strongly recommended to bring a 10x10 pop-up tent (don't forget paperweights and tent weights, we have had fly-away tents in years past!) There is no charge for your organization or business to attend, so please help us spread the word to other interested parties you may know!

[Click here to access the signup form.](#) Due March 10th!

We will be using the email address you give us when you complete the participation form above to stay in touch about event logistics as the date gets closer – so please watch your inbox (and check your spelling)

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions! Best,

Talee Messenger

She/her/hers
Outreach Coordinator

Board Administrator

Monadnock Food Co-op

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