

City of Keene
New Hampshire

ENERGY AND CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

4:30 PM

**2nd Floor Conference Room,
City Hall**

Members Present:

Gordon Leversee, Chair
Maureen Nebenzahl, Vice Chair
Councilor Bryan Lake
Paul Roth
Steve Larmon (arrived at 4:57 PM)
Timothy Murphy
Jake Pipp, Alternate (Voting)
Rowland Russell, Alternate (Voting)
Catherine Koning, Alternate (arrived at 4:50 PM)

Staff Present:

Mari Brunner, Senior Planner

Members Not Present:

Annu Joshi Bargale
Clair Oursler
Lisa Maxfield
Charles Redfern, Alternate
Matthew Boulton, Alternate

1) Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Leversee called the meeting to order at 4:32 PM.

2) Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2026

Revisions: Line 221, revise to read as “what if that mortgage assessment *schedule* is...” Lines 239–240: revise to say, “... and *residential* properties with five or more units...” Lines 322–323, update to clarify that Mr. Peter Hansel was referring to a “\$35,000 salary *annually*” for three years. Ms. Brunner reported that with salary and benefits, the updated figure was approximately \$121,000 for the first year, and this was a reference to 1/3 per year.

A motion by Councilor Lake to adopt the January 28, 2026 meeting minutes, as amended, was duly seconded by Mr. Pipp and the motion carried unanimously.

3) NH Saves Weatherization Rebate Program – Presentation on Recent Program Updates

Chair Leversee welcomed Kyle Missaggia from NHSaves. Mr. Missaggia provided the Committee with some flyers regarding a new program Eversource was rolling out. This initiative is available to individuals and is designed to assist working households who qualify at or near the area median income. The program offers up to \$15,000 in weatherization services, including air sealing, insulation, window upgrades, heat pumps, and other energy-saving measures. Mr. Missaggia called it a straightforward way for residents to participate in energy-saving efforts. He thought the ECC might have contacts who could benefit from this opportunity. The program is applicable to both single-family homes and multi-unit properties; NHSaves already completed projects involving buildings with up to 12 units in Peterborough. Although NHSaves operates out of Nashua, Mr. Missaggia resides in Wilton, NH. So, he said the goal to expand into this part of the state would be very feasible, and he looked forward to focusing on more outreach in this region.

Mr. Pipp shared his experience with similar past programs and the process usually involved submitting details, such as fuel usage and square footage, to determine eligibility. He asked whether a comparable approach would be required for this program or if everyone would automatically qualify. Mr. Missaggia the procedures are quite similar to what Mr. Pipp mentioned (information was provided to the Committee, along with the utility contact). The initial, mandatory step is income verification to ensure that the household meets the qualification requirements before moving on to the next step, reporting fuel usage. Mr. Missaggia said this program offers slightly more leeway than others. Many older homes in the area consume significant amounts of energy, as indicated by telltale signs like icicle formation.

Ms. Brunner asked if income verification is by submitting W2s. Mr. Missaggia said there are two income verification methods: linking bank accounts or submitting W-2 forms. The specific process may vary depending on an applicant's sources of income. Income verification is conducted by a third-party service. Neither the contractor nor the utility has knowledge of personal financial details; they only receive confirmation of eligibility.

Councilor Lake appreciated Mr. Missaggia bringing this to the Committee. Regarding the communication plan, Councilor Lake asked if any pamphlets would be distributed to Eversource customers. Mr. Missaggia said that was certainly something NHSaves intended to pursue, noting it was a new product, and Eversource was in the early stages of implementation. While participation had been limited so far, he cited the recent momentum. With the plan to expand further, Mr. Missaggia said the ECC's support in outreach efforts or guidance would be appreciated.

Carlyn Sweet of Keene asked if the program is designed for landlords or tenants. Mr. Missaggia said either. In tenant situations, approval to use their electricity and fuel consumption data is required, followed by landlord consent to perform work. Ms. Sweet understood that it would cover 100% of certain weatherization measures and asked Mr. Missaggia to elaborate on whether appliance upgrades and enhancements would also be fully covered. Mr. Missaggia said the utility's objective is to deliver these improvements at no cost to homeowners or architects. For

example, in a two-family building, each unit may qualify for up to \$15,000, totaling \$30,000 for the property. Larger complexes may realize considerable savings. Ms. Sweet called it an excellent program, and others agreed.

Mr. Pipp noted the connection between NHSaves and Eversource. He asked Mr. Missaggia to clarify his role and how contractors are involved. Mr. Missaggia explained that NHSaves conducts audits and installations, specializing in air sealing, insulation, and weatherization. He is one of four auditors with Turn Cycle Solutions, which has seven crews dedicated to these tasks daily. After completing an audit, NHSaves submits its findings—which incorporate projected fuel and electricity savings—to the utility for approval and to schedule installation. Mr. Missaggia said that if the ECC tracks metrics, NHSaves would be happy to collaborate and share energy savings results for use on websites or other platforms.

Chair Leversee noted two upcoming Earth Day events in April. The ECC would have a table for at least one of them and asked whether information about this program would be available. Mr. Missaggia said he could ensure that that information is provided. Chair Leversee said having a stack of the materials would be helpful for tabling. Mr. Missaggia would arrange that and said he could see about setting up an additional table, if possible and timing permitted. He noted that NHSaves previously tabled at Peterborough's Sun Week celebration, presenting related programs and discussing energy-saving opportunities. Chair Leversee thought that having a dedicated table for this program could increase visibility. Mr. Missaggia confirmed that this topic would be on the ECC's next agenda. Dr. Russell suggested contacting the Monadnock Food Co-Op, which organizes the Monadnock Region Earth Festival to secure a table; he was unsure about the deadline. Mr. Missaggia said he would pursue that.

Ms. Brunner said she would already be tabling at one festival and wanted to be able to answer questions accurately. She asked, if someone had already participated in the basic NHSaves Program, are they eligible for this initiative? Mr. Missaggia said they may be eligible, provided their fuel usage meets the criteria. For instance, if they participated the prior year and their fuel consumption remains high, re-enrollment is possible. He was not referring to the red-to-orange part of the gas meters; this program does not use that specifically. Eversource handles eligibility verification, allowing some leeway. During audits, Mr. Missaggia typically informs customers of their eligibility status, and participants in other programs can join this one as well. He added that only a few contractors could facilitate this specific work at this time, which involves additional computer modeling.

Peter Hansel of Keene referred to the appliance upgrades mentioned, including heating and cooling systems, and asked if that includes heat pumps. Mr. Missaggia said heat pumps are applicable if the home already has electric resistance heating. However, fuel system conversions—such as transitioning from oil to heat pumps—are not permitted at this time. Mr. Missaggia anticipated future changes once metrics and tracking methods are established.

The Committee thanked Mr. Missaggia for his time.

4) C-PACER Updates

Councilor Lake and Vice Chair Nebenzahl attended the City Council's Planning, Licenses and Development (PLD) Standing Committee hearing on the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy and Resiliency (C-PACER) Program on February 11, 2026. Chair Leversee requested an update.

Councilor Lake reported that the ECC's initial recommendation passed through the PLD Committee and then through the Council as well. This was asking the City Manager to direct staff to write an Ordinance, which will go to the Council; Joint Planning Board & PLD Committee, and to the regular PLD Committee for review before eventually going back Council for a final vote. Councilor Lake said the February 11, 2026 PLD meeting about C-PACER was pretty quick. He said Vice Chair Nebenzahl and Planner, Megan Fortson, did a great job getting unanimous support from the five-member PLD Committee. The 15-member City Council then unanimously approved the PLD Committee's recommendation. Now, Councilor Lake said it was a matter of determining the details of the actual Ordinance. He called it all pretty positive. Chair Leversee agreed that it was great news.

5) Spring Retreat Planning – Potential Dates/Times

Chair Leversee initiated conversation about planning the Committee's annual Spring Retreat, which was held on Monday, May 12, 2025, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM last year. He recalled barely scraping together a quorum for that meeting, which involved a presentation on the Hazard Mitigation Plan & FEMA mapping updates from the Emergency Management Director, Kurt Blomquist, as well as Plans Examiner & Floodplain Manager, Michael Hagan. There was also an update on the City's Comprehensive Master Plan. Then, Chair Leversee said the Committee discussed its work for the next year and developed a plan to move from five working groups to three working groups—the status at this time—to work more collaboratively toward supporting a few major goals. Chair Leversee mentioned this so the group could think about scheduling the retreat for this year, and also to gauge if there were ideas for a different type of agenda.

Councilor Lake noted that one of the Committee's bigger changes in the past couple of years was significant reorganization of the ECC's Work Group structure. He thought that it would be good to have a Retreat session to reconnect how the three new Work Groups have been doing for the past few months and whether the Committee set the right directions for them or needs to pivot at all. Councilor Lake added that it would be great to have a guest speaker on a topic, if anyone had something specific in mind. He said he is pretty flexible with dates, with some time unavailable at the end of April / early May. Councilor Lake noted the challenges of getting everybody together for an extended meeting of a few hours. He wondered about having shorter ones (i.e., one hour) in the spring and fall on different topics, and one longer one to flesh out some bigger topics.

Dr. Konig arrived at 4:50 PM.

Mr. Murphy liked Councilor Lake's idea of evaluating how the Work Groups are doing, stating that it makes a lot of sense. Something else that resonated with Mr. Murphy was the Committee's

excitement and motivation about Keene potentially being the first municipality in New Hampshire with a C-PACER Program. So, he wondered where to go from here and what the ECC's role would be. He felt that in conjunction with the Committee's Outreach Work Group, there were many ways to breathe life into the Program. He heard conversation of the City being lucky to receive a couple of C-PACER users per during the previous meeting. Mr. Murphy wondered if the ECC could do something about that, perhaps in conjunction with others.

Vice Chair Nebenzahl was thinking about the same thing as Mr. Murphy. Vice Chair Nebenzahl mentioned perhaps the need to do more outreach to the Chamber of Commerce—going to one of their meetings or inviting them to an ECC meeting—to discuss what things the community could do together for C-PACER. Vice Chair Nebenzahl was unsure whether there is enough community outreach by the Committee; she heard from Committee members that the ECC does not really communicate energy updates. She thought the ECC needed to find a way to communicate more with the community, which she suggested as a Retreat topic.

Dr. Russell noted that the Committee had just hosted another program presentation at the beginning of this meeting from NHSaves, which proved to be an excellent addition to the ECC's ongoing efforts. Facilitating and promoting various initiatives within the City is a core function of the ECC. In essence, he said it serves as a clearinghouse for these programs and represents these interests, yet the community does not always perceive the ECC in that capacity. Dr. Russell expressed appreciation for Mr. Murphy's remarks, which addressed the broader scope of initiatives under the Committee's oversight. Dr. Russell said the challenge remained: how could the public access information about these programs without going to multiple different organizations or reading the City Council minutes? He thought it might be best to consolidate and disseminate information about all these programs and organize one table at the Earth Festival, featuring a comprehensive flyer that lists all available programs. Dr. Russell added that perhaps the ECC's website could also be reframed to provide accessible links to these resources. Vice Chair Nebenzahl proposed that the Committee consider developing a newsletter. Mr. Murphy thought it sounded like a multi-day retreat.

Upon reviewing historical documents related to the ECC's founding, Chair Laversee was reminded that the three overarching objectives had been: (1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions, (2) advance renewable energy / reduce energy consumption, and (3) address the impacts of climate change. These broad goals had guided the Committee's efforts, such as establishing the Community Power Program and pursuing appointment of a Sustainability Coordinator, which remains a subject of ongoing discussions and work. Chair Laversee wanted to be thoughtful moving forward about the Committee's clear overarching understanding of what it does and how. He said a lot might be communication rather than individual programs that seem vaguely connected. He wondered if there was an overarching flow to the ECC's work direction and where it wanted to go next. Chair Laversee said that would be his desired outcome of the retreat.

Councilor Lake fully supported these suggestions, especially the ideas for communicating better. He also thought it would be valuable to explore how these initiatives align with the City's recent Master Plan update. This connection was discussed frequently among Councilors when planning for the upcoming year, so he thought it could be a useful Retreat topic as well. Ms. Brunner appreciated that idea.

Given the significance of these topics, Chair Leversee proposed that the Committee review its notes and include the Retreat on its March 2026 agenda. Chair Leversee asked each Work Group to discuss the topic as they met during the coming month as well.

Dr. Larmon arrived at 4:57 PM.

Mr. Pipp noted that the Master Plan is a broader view. Perhaps to help the ECC with a more granular perspective, the Committee could also review the Sustainable Energy Plan it adopted; it had different prongs and under each of those there were specific goals. Mr. Pipp recalled the Committee focusing more on that a few years prior.

Mr. Hansel noted that the City was nearly halfway to its 2030 goal of transitioning to 100% renewable energy sources. He thought this presented an opportune moment for the Committee to assess its progress, gather actual data, and communicate these findings to the public; there were likely questions about its achievements and ongoing efforts. Mr. Hansel agreed with Mr. Pipp that the ECC has a roadmap in the Sustainable Energy Plan and perhaps it needs updating to determine whether there is a more effective way to reach the goal.

Dr. Russell appreciated Chair Leversee articulating the ECC's three overarching goals, which were reflected in past and current plans, including the City's updated Master Plan. He said using these as organizing principles/categories could allow the Committee to systematically review its accomplishments, the City's progress, and the various programs discussed. Dr. Russell thought that it would create a substantial amount of work for the retreat and believed it would be more valuable than inviting a guest speaker.

Dr. Koning stated that unless the Retreat guest would be Ms. Brunner or colleagues providing a progress report, as suggested by the Outreach Work Group, the Committee could consider holding a separate public meeting. The intent would be to feature preliminary calculations and assessments of Community Power savings so far compared to the City's greenhouse gas production. Dr. Koning's own calculations indicated a modest reduction, although she hoped there might be an error. She thought that presentation could also help to make a case for the public about hiring a Sustainability Coordinator by highlighting why more expertise is needed.

Councilor Lake discussed potential dates and times and asked whether the group should send out a poll to gather input for scheduling. He noted that it can be challenging to collect responses and emphasized the importance of replying to such polls, as planning would be difficult without feedback. City staff would distribute the poll and collect ideas for retreat days in the spring.

Ms. Brunner asked whether the poll should offer a two-hour or three-hour meeting time frame. The group discussed different options—three, four, or five hours. Mr. Pipp recalled that, in the past, three-hour retreats often ran out of time, suggesting that the duration was insufficient (e.g., with lengthy presentations). Chair Leversee thought that if the group prepared in advance, did not have guest presentations (e.g., 30 to 45 minutes), and it is focused, that three hours should be adequate. The Committee ultimately agreed that a three-hour Retreat would be suitable.

6) Keene State College Earth Day Celebration – Friday, April 17, 2026 from 12:00 PM–3:00 PM at Oya Hill

Chair Leverage inquired about the Earth Day event on April 17, 2026 at Keene State College, confirming that a table would be present and someone planned to attend. Ms. Brunner said it sounded like the Committee could have its own table if wanted and she could investigate the possibility of securing one, noting that Committee members would need to staff it. Although, Ms. Brunner planned to attend and would appreciate company. She knew recruiting volunteers to staff the ECC table had typically been challenging, so she offered to distribute ECC materials at the event. The Chair suggested that a Committee member join Ms. Brunner at her table as opposed to the Committee having their own table and Vice Chair Nebenzahl agreed it would be wiser. Chair Leverage indicated willingness to join, and suggested others might also be able.

Dr. Russell asked whether this was Keene State College's (KSC) usual event or a new activity. Ms. Brunner knew that in the past Solar Fest was held the same day as the Monadnock Earth Festival and this year, Solar Fest would be one week in advance. So, Ms. Brunner thought the KSC Earth Day Celebration would be a new event. Dr. Russell noted that the events had not always coincided in the past and requested clarification, as Solar Fest draws a broader audience. Ms. Brunner agreed to inquire. Dr. Koning observed that there might be a new organizer, suggesting this KSC event might reflect a new vision. Vice Chair Nebenzahl recalled noticing a stronger presence at KSC, with student sustainability tables and fruit displays, for example. It indicated a real effort. She recommended inviting a member of the KSC student sustainability group to a meeting to foster community involvement/outreach.

Mr. Pipp recalled Dr. Russell's earlier suggestion to provide sheets that list all available programs, explaining each one for public awareness. This would help make the resources more available to attendees (homeowners, community members, or businesses) and better communicate ongoing initiatives.

Dr. Koning noted that the Outreach Work Group discussed Earth Day and proposed bringing a big whiteboard with the main message displayed, "Are you ready to opt up?" including a QR code and flyer (i.e., engaging). Then, she said people could take flyers from the table to learn more. The group aims to attract attendees beyond printed materials with the message. Mr. Roth suggested a bubble machine.

Mr. Hansel raised a question about past organizers, noting that Chloe March at KSC previously ran the Eco-Reps Committee but had graduated. Mr. Hansel suggested contacting her replacement and collaborating with their team for tabling. Ms. Brunner confirmed that contact information for the current Eco-Reps President, Amanda Rotigliano, was available in the Committee's February 25, 2026 meeting packet (page 15 of 22).

Chair Leverage said he would table with Ms. Brunner at the April 17, 2026 KSC Earth Day event and he welcomed other Committee members to join him or take his place.

Councilor Lake noted that typically for Earth Day events, the ECC brought homeowner-focused materials. He wondered if this Keene State event should be more educational to engage the

students or designed to draw in the broader community. Ms. Brunner clarified that Ms. Rotigliano welcomed both informational and interactive activities, but said interactive elements would likely foster greater engagement. Since the event is held on campus, students would be the primary audience, though faculty and staff might also attend. From that perspective, Councilor Lake said the Community Power Plan is a great educational piece, but the City is not trying to get the students to opt up. That is something the City has accomplished and is doing within the community. Dr. Koning agreed it was a good point to reconsider the content for the whiteboard, such as a quiz question about the number of solar arrays in Keene.

7) **2026 Monadnock Region Earth Festival – Saturday, April 25th from 11:00 AM–3:00 PM at the Monadnock Food Co-Op**

Chair Leversee stated that the Committee had hosted a table in the past and would like to do so again, but would need to staff it and expressed his willingness to assist. In the past, he picked up materials and helped with setup and takedown; Councilor Lake also participated in these tasks before. The Chair wanted to ensure that enough people would be available to staff the table and suggested that Ms. Fortson send a note to everyone, asking Committee Members to indicate their preferred time slot and tabling location. Dr. Koning said she would be present and could rotate one hour at a time between the three tables she would be representing that day. Discussion ensued about who would sign up for the ECC table with the Monadnock Food Co-op. Chair Leversee said he knew that there was consensus to have an ECC table but wanted to ensure that there was a commitment to staff it. Dr. Koning suggested requesting table placement next to the Clean Energy Team’s table to minimize walking distances.

Councilor Lake volunteered to send out a Google Sheet, as he had done for previous events, so everyone could add their names and indicate their availability. Although he would be on vacation that weekend and might not be able to attend, he would send the Sheet promptly to help coordinate staffing and follow-up to ensure a timely request for the table.

Mr. Murphy noted that the Earth Festival could attract more community interaction than the KSC event and therefore might require a different selection of table items. Dr. Russell suggested that for the Keene State event, the climate Resilience Work Group could consider interactive activities, possibly involving environmental studies students, to engage participants in identifying issues of concern. Dr. Koning proposed an interactive map where attendees could place stickers to show preferred locations for bike paths, their frequent destinations, or areas of concern (e.g., flooding). She also suggested using a whiteboard to gather responses to questions.

Chair Leversee recommended that the Work Groups think about the Earth Festival table and the Committee would revisit the topic at the next meeting to ensure everyone is aware.

8) **Senate Bill 538 (SB538) – Related to Net Metering Credits for Solar Projects Serving Political Subdivisions**

Chair Leversee stated that Clean Energy NH was looking for a letter of support because the current rules would end net metering credits in 2040. He said Clean Energy NH wanted to add a one-line amendment to the existing language to guarantee 20 years of net metering for municipal

solar projects from when they begin receiving compensation. Clean Energy NH hoped to secure a letter of support from the Committee.

Discussion ensued about the best method for the Committee to show its support because it is a piece of legislation. Ms. Brunner said City staff felt that it should go through City Council since the Committee serves as an advisory body to the Council. She thought it would be beneficial to bring it to the Council's attention for a formal endorsement, which would carry more weight. Councilor Lake agreed with Ms. Brunner and added context from the Committee's perspective. Councilor Lake recalled that the Committee had previously written letters of support, but typically those were directed to the City in support of specific programs, or sent to the Departments of Transportation, for example. Sending a letter directly to the state legislature would be different for the ECC, and he did not recall such an instance. So, Councilor Lake suggested that this issue would be best handled by the Council, especially since action was time sensitive. He suggested that the ECC motion to recommend the City Council submit a letter in support of Senate Bill 538 (the ECC would not write a letter to the Council).

Mr. Murphy observed many moving parts. He referred to the packet, which included a letter from Frank Richter with Clean Energy NH, indicating that letters could be accepted from municipal boards like the City Council and from committees like the ECC. Mr. Murphy recalled Ms. Brunner's earlier comment that it would be more appropriate for the letter to come from City Council, while Bryan mentioned that he could not recall the Council itself writing such a letter to the legislature. Councilor Lake clarified that ECC had not; it is common for the Council to do so. Ms. Brunner confirmed that the Council has a policy to write letters to the legislature if they align with an NH Municipal Association (NHMA) position, and NHMA supported this bill, so it met the Council's policy.

Mr. Murphy further noted that the sample letter provided was a sign-on letter, not an individual letter from a municipality. He wondered whether the City Council might resist signing onto someone else's language and questioned whether the Council preferred writing its own letters; his experience suggested legislators tended to take form letters less seriously. Mr. Murphy said that if the Council simply adopted the sample letter verbatim, it might erode its effectiveness. He suggested a customized letter might be more effective, but acknowledged the process was complex and not straightforward.

Chair Leverage's sense was that it would be up to the City Council to wrestle with whether they want to sign on or write their own letter. Mr. Murphy wondered, if the Committee recommended that the City Council consider favorably signing onto SB 538 for the reasons outlined in the letter by Clean Energy NH, then it would be a full recommendation vs. a half suggestion for the Council to write its own letter. In the interest of efficiency, Dr. Koning thought it would be smarter and probably just as effective for the Committee to recommend that the Council sign on to the form letter.

Mr. Murphy made the following motion, which was duly seconded by Councilor Lake. On a vote of 8-0, the Energy and Climate Committee recommends that the City Council sign on to the letter in support of SB 538 provided by Clean Energy NH.

9) Work Group Report-Outs
A) Policy

Councilor Lake reported that he and Vice Chair Nebenzahl met to talk about C-PACER. Councilor Lake was unable to access the Statewide Energy Committee meeting this month due to technology and would provide an update after the next month's meeting.

B) Resilience

Dr. Russell reported that the Resilience Work Group met a few weeks prior, compiled a robust list of climate change related issues, and discussed what resilience looks like within that matrix. The Group suggested, at an upcoming ECC meeting in March or April 2026, inviting pertinent Public Works Department staff and possibly Emergency Management Director Blomquist, to share their thoughts on Keene climate resilience priorities. The Work Group aims to have a discussion that would flow from their input, covering areas where they need help, where they would like input from the Committee, and how we the ECC could help reinforce what they are already attempting to do.

Dr. Russell asked for the Committee's feedback/objections to the idea. Dr. Koning thought that it sounded like a great idea. Mr. Murphy asked whether it would be an invitation to speak to the Resilience Work Group or the ECC. Dr. Russell said the intent would be to speak to the ECC and if the Committee was not interested, then it could be a Work Group exercise. Mr. Murphy understood and thought there sounded like a benefit for the full Committee, although he noted that it would require sufficient time on a Committee agenda. Dr. Russell would coordinate with Ms. Fortson to schedule.

Mr. Roth added that the Work Group feels it is its job to support and validate City staff's sustainability initiatives. He said much discussion centered on the need to solve the disconnect that exists and to promote those initiatives. Dr. Russell said the Work Group also wanted to establish that they are interested in having staff be a part of their meetings and interact with them, so the ECC would not be siloed from the City's work. Chair Laversee noted that this approach was very consistent with the ECC's 2025 Retreat and the recommendations for moving forward this year—the idea of collaborating across other offices and work groups.

C) Outreach

Dr. Koning stated that most topics had been discussed already. She suggested that the Outreach Work Group's next meeting should focus on consolidating ideas for the two upcoming Earth Day events. Dr. Koning also expressed uncertainty regarding the direction for a public meeting or progress report; she sought input from the Committee and Ms. Brunner about whether a separate public meeting should be planned. Ms. Brunner asked whether the event would be Committee- or staff-organized. Dr. Koning thought that the Committee could handle logistics such as reserving space and advertising, while the presentation could be delivered by staff. Ms. Brunner was open to the idea and acknowledged that timing and other details would require coordination but believed it could be feasible.

Dr. Koning asked the Committee whether it wanted to pursue this public meeting. Chair Leversee reflected on timing, referencing the Retreat agenda, which would be for assessing progress and developing materials. He suggested that after the retreat, the Committee would have the information to determine whether it is ready to move forward with a public meeting, at which point Ms. Brunner could advise on her availability to participate. Ms. Brunner emphasized the principle of collaboration over duplication, and referenced the Monadnock Sustainability Hub's Clean Energy Fair, for example. She suggested that the progress update could be presented as a session within the Clean Energy Fair, rather than as a standalone event. Dr. Koning is on the Monadnock Sustainability Hub's Board and confirmed that the ECC would be cosponsoring the 2026 event as well. Dr. Koning liked the idea of incorporating the presentation with the Clean Energy Fair. Mr. Roth thought there would be a larger audience.

Ms. Brunner presented some Outreach requests to the Board. She updated the Committee on a recent meeting she had with a consultant from Good Energy for the Community Power Program. Ms. Brunner recalled that the City manages the Community Power Program with support from Good Energy (consultant), Direct Energy (supplier), and Standard Power. She acknowledged the complexity of these partnerships. She shared that the contract with Good Energy entitles the City to one mailer or printed outreach piece per year, such as flyers. She saw this as an opportunity to inform Keene residents about the Community Power Program and the environmental benefits of opting up. She suggested the mailer could also highlight other resources, such as NHSaves and the energy coaching program through the Monadnock Sustainability Hub. Ms. Brunner invited the Committee to contribute ideas for the mailer's content, while offering staff support for the internal resources needed.

Dr. Russell asked about the timeline, and Ms. Brunner confirmed that the mailer can be sent any time during the year. Dr. Russell proposed that a newsletter could incorporate updates on all relevant ECC programs. There was a mention of C-PACER. Ms. Brunner recommended that content be tailored specifically for Keene residents and specifically Community Power customers. Councilor Lake thought the timing for the mailer distribution could be really important each year to maintain impactful public awareness in-between concentrated program launches or renewal periods. He encouraged the Outreach Work Group to explore the topic.

Dr. Koning liked the idea and was willing to assist. She noted that some residents were opting out of the program due to rate concerns, referencing a recent "Letter to The Editor" in The Keene Sentinel that criticized Community Power costs. Dr. Koning suggested educational efforts could counter such perceptions, possibly by explaining price fluctuations—more of policy matter.

In response to Mr. Murphy, Ms. Brunner confirmed that Good Energy, as the consultant, would collaborate with Direct Energy to distribute the mailer to customers. Mr. Murphy responded by asking about the Committee's latitude to promoting various initiatives within the mailer; Ms. Brunner had mentioned that it would need to focus on the Community Power Program. Ms. Brunner replied that it should be directed toward people who are on the Community Power Program. Mr. Murphy asked if the Committee would exceed its parameters if it talked about other programs, like C-PACER. He noted there did not need to be an answer at this meeting and he could envision these questions about the scope being addressed at/after the Spring Retreat. Ms. Brunner confirmed that most accounts in the Program are residential, so the mailer should

target residential customers. She specified that the mailer should be limited to one page, with the option to use both sides.

Mr. Roth asked when the year term for the mailer begins. Ms. Brunner assumed it was the calendar year but had not asked. Mr. Roth asked the contract terms. Ms. Brunner said the contract period with Direct Energy is two years and she believed one-year with Good Energy. Mr. Roth asked if the City paid for mailers and never used them. Ms. Brunner thought the City had pre-used some to have banners and other materials printed for the Program launch, and now the arrangement was current.

Ms. Brunner provided an additional Outreach update regarding upcoming renewal for the KeeneEnergyPlan.com website. The ECC was instrumental in developing the site in collaboration with the City's sustainability fellow about six years prior. She noted that City policy now requires content to be hosted on the main City website, with stricter accessibility standards, so KeeneEnergyPlan.com would not be renewed. Ms. Brunner asked the Committee to identify any content they wanted preserved and transferred to the City's Sustainability web page. Mr. Roth questioned whether there would be a new or complementary City portal to replace the old website.

Ms. Brunner confirmed that any relevant information could be added to the City of Keene website, KeeneNH.gov, including Sustainability and Energy Plan contents. Mr. Roth suggested this as a Retreat topic, given its relevance to outreach and education. The Committee agreed that a whole new webpage might not be needed. Ms. Brunner thought it would be a task for Committee Members to scan KeeneEnergyPlan.com, determine what was still relevant, and then City staff would move those items to the City of Keene Sustainability webpage or create a new page. Dr. Koning thought a lot on KeeneEnergyPlan.com was really outdated.

10) New Business

Chair Leversee shared an informational item. The New Hampshire Department of Energy hired the consulting firm London Economics International to study the impacts and feasibility of withdrawing from the ISO New England Energy Grid. He said many could not imagine NH withdrawing, but the news had rattled the energy world. Chair Leversee said it would be noteworthy if there were a recommendation for the state to move forward independently, which would be something similar to Texas.

11) Next Meeting Date: March 25, 2026 at 4:30 PM

12) Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Leversee adjourned the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Katie Kibler, Minute Taker

Reviewed and edited by,
Megan A. Fortson – AICP, Planner