

CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

Meeting Type: Regular Meeting
Meeting Location: City Hall 1st Floor Conference Room, 288 Central Ave.
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, February 18th, 2026**
Meeting Time: **5:30 PM**

1. Welcome

Chair Bill Baber opened the meeting at 5:32 PM.

Roll Call: Bill Baber (Chair), Vincent Lyon (Vice Chair), Susan Smith, John Turner, Steve Paulson, Madelyn Bradley

Other Attendees: none

Staff: Lexi Merchant (Resilience Coordinator)

2. Election of Officers.

Bill Baber was elected as Chair and Vincent Lyon was elected as Vice Chair by unanimous consent.

3. Citizens' Forum

Melanie Strong introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her interests in sustainability.

4. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 17th, 2025

S. Smith motioned and S. Paulson seconded, minutes approved U/A.

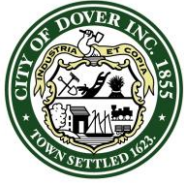
5. Staff Updates

A. Weatherize Dover Outreach

Weatherize Dover which is a weatherization campaign funded through NH Saves and the Home Energy Performance program. There are two ways to qualify for this program; through income and through high home fuel usage/low energy efficiency. Staff noted that a Dover Download article and a Planning Newsletter article have gone out about this program. There is also a flyer with a pamphlet posted in the main hallway of City Hall. Commission members discussed other opportunities to create awareness.

B. CPCNH Rate Updates

CPCNH released the rates for the next rate period which are higher than the Eversource rates. L. Merchant exhibited a slideshow prepared for the Dover City Council workshop on January 28th regarding the CPCNH rates and the City's municipal accounts. The Council voted at the regular meeting on January 28th to remove the large commercial (GV) municipal accounts from CPCNH energy supply and move them to Eversource default for this rate cycle. This was estimated to save the City approximately \$105,000. Additionally, City staff released multiple articles in the Dover Download newsletter as well as one podcast episode to alert residents about the rate change. There will now be a permanent graphic in the Dover Download about CPCNH with information on how to opt out or opt up to higher renewable content. B. Baber addressed questions about why rates are higher this rate cycle.



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Lexi Merchant is now the alternate member representative of the Dover for CPCNH with Bill Baber remaining the primary member.

C. ESPC

The City is working with EEI on an Energy Savings Performance Contract (ESPC). The municipal building audits are no cost and are still ongoing. EEI has presented the City with options for the McConnell Center as well as options for solar on five municipal buildings. The McConnell Project has been separated into two phases based on the funding available in the McConnell fund. Phase 1 includes replacing the McConnell Center roof with some insulation and small savings for that. This project went before City Council on January 14th and was approved.

The Second Phase of the McConnell Center project includes solar on the McConnell Center, the Public Works Complex, the Ice Arena, the North End Fire Station, and the French Cross Water Treatment Plant. It also includes a complete HVAC upgrade with boiler replacement, heat pump replacement, gym dehumidification, a cooling tower, and controls upgrades. This would require debt financing which requires 3 Council meetings before approval.

At the January 28th Council workshop, EEI presented on the Phase 2 portion of the project. Since then, City leadership talked about how the project be split into the solar and HVAC upgrades. Then leadership decided to not move forward with the solar or HVAC for now to have more time to review. EEI requested a meeting with the City Manager to address this. After that meeting, City leadership is still hesitant to move forward with the project as proposed.

Members discussed the project and the potential avenues for moving forward.

V. Lyon motioned to reiterate the importance of pursuing solar quickly to take advantage of the Investment Tax Credits given that this will likely be the last opportunity for this. Additionally, solar supports Dover's goals of clean energy and sustainability. The motion was seconded by S. Paulson and the motion passed unanimously.

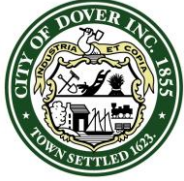
D. Energy Commission Annual Report 2025

The Commission decided to wait to make a decision about how to proceed with the 2025 report to focus on the projects with deadlines.

E. CPACE

The potential Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy zone/ordinance is being reviewed by the Planning Department and Assessing.

F. Update on Potential New Sustainability Commission



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Based on feedback from the last meeting, it is recommended by the Energy Commission for the sustainability committee or commission to be a stand-alone committee or commission and should not be absorbed into the Energy Commission. Members discussed options for the committee or commission noting that City staff should make sure not to duplicate efforts of other committees/commissions. Members suggested that the committee could be formed to inform the City's future sustainability goals.

G. Operating Rules Amendment – Citizens' Forum

Currently, the Energy Commission has no rules regarding who may or may not speak at public forum. The proposed changes to the operating rules clarify that only Dover residents, business owners, or representatives may speak. People wishing to speak also would only have 5 minutes and could only speak once. Members discussed the proposed changes but members felt that the rules were too strict for the Energy Commissions mode of operating. Members asked staff to consider edits allowing for exceptions to be made.

H. Energy Tips

B. Baber submitted three energy tips focused on how renters can reduce their energy consumption.

6. New Business

A. SB538

SB538 extends the 20-year term of eligibility in the net metering 2.0 tariff for municipal group hosts.

V. Lyon motioned to "recommend to the Dover City Council and Management to recommend passing this bill and to sign on to support." S. Smith seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

7. Other Business / Member Comments:

A. None.

8. Call for Agenda Items:

9. Adjourn: Unanimously at 6:48pm.

Minutes taken by Lexi Merchant.