

CITY OF DOVER

ENERGY COMMISSION – MINUTES

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

1. Welcome

Chair Bill Baber opened the meeting at 5:40 PM.

Roll Call: Bill Baber (Chair), Vincent Lyon (Vice Chair), Susan Smith, John Turner, Madelyn Bradley, Dylan Lucas, Eric Ryherd, Steve Brown

Other Attendees: none

Staff: Lexi Merchant (Resilience Coordinator)

2. Citizens' Forum

3. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Meeting Minutes of December 17th, 2025

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

4. Staff Updates

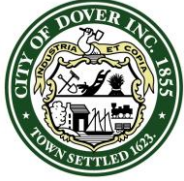
A. Energy Savings Performance Contracting

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.

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. EEI is willing to guarantee the Investment Tax Credits (ITC) which offers a 30% offset of the project. EEI will present the project again to Council on March 25th with this guarantee highlighted.

The solar project will be separate from the HVAC project because of differing financing requirements. The solar portion can not be financed with any tax exempt funds without the ITC percentage being reduced. The City is working to find funds available. Reallocation of funds only takes 2 Council meetings. The HVAC portion will be financed through debt which would take 3 meetings before approval.



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Additionally, after discussing with EEI and the Energy Commission subgroup, we have decided to remove the battery storage option at the McConnell Center pending more investigation. The Commission discussed the option of selling the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) to help with the financing of the project.

B. WWTF Solar

ReVision met with the Energy Commission subgroup to provide them with an update. The interconnection application was approved by Eversource with no updates needed. Now ReVision has begun the permitting process. Though the building is structurally sound, there are posts that are in need of replacement and the City has decided to have ReVision coordinate this project as it falls under their scope of work.

C. 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. M. Bradley provided a case study and a video made by Exeter TV to use for outreach materials. Commission members discussed other opportunities to create awareness including utilizing the Dover Facebook page.

D. Resilience Plan Update

Staff is planning to update the current Resilience Plan released in 2023. The new plan will focus on community input while addressing the many broad aspects of resilience. The plan will be informed by a greenhouse gas assessment. Commission members will be kept informed of the plans progress and asked for input about relevant sections. Members discussed outreach strategies.

E. Operating Rules Amendment

The City Attorney reviewed the operating rules and approved the change. Members are always allowed to suspend the operating rules by a majority vote but should use caution to prevent an unfair situation if more than one person wanted to speak. Members discussed and E. Ryherd motioned to accept the changes as presented. D. Lucas seconded. The motion was unanimous.

F. Energy Tips

Call for seasonal energy tips.

5. New Business

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A. Energy Commission Annual Report

B. Baber suggested dividing the report into sections and assigning members to work on each section. The sections and members assigned are as follows:

Advanced Nuclear Reactors and Data Centers in NH – D. Lucas and J. Turner

Energy Savings Performance Contract – L. Merchant

Wastewater Treatment Facility Solar – E. Ryherd, D. Lucas, V. Lyon

CPCNH Rates and Group Net Metering – L. Merchant and B. Baber

Energy Tips – B. Baber

Weatherize Dover – M. Bradley

Resilience Plan and Sustainability Committee – L. Merchant, S. Smith, S. Brown

By next meeting, members will meet with their group and come prepared with a draft outline.

6. Other Business / Member Comments:

A. E. Ryherd mentioned the Sustainability Fair that is taking place in Portsmouth, NH.

8. Call for Agenda Items:

9. Adjourn: Unanimously at 6:40pm.

Minutes taken by Lexi Merchant.