

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

2. Chair Bill Baber was absent at this meeting. Vice Chair Vincent Lyon opened the meeting at 5:30PM.

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

Other Attendees: Councilor Veitch

Staff: Lexi Merchant (Resilience Coordinator)

3. Citizens' Forum

4. Approval of Minutes

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes of April 18th, 2025

V. Lyon motioned and E. Ryherd seconded, minutes approved U/A.

5. Staff Updates

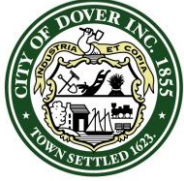
A. Energy Savings Performance Contracting

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 insulation and small guaranteed 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 presented the project 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 has found funds available to cover the solar portion of the project with non tax-exempt funding. This resolution went before City Council on April 8th and



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was approved unanimously. Next, the HVAC portion of the project will be voted on by Council on April 22nd.

Additionally, the City partnered with CPCNH to pull the interval data for the GV rated accounts considered for solar. This data was examined to see if either building would be a good candidate for battery storage. These accounts were the McConnell Center and the Ice Arena. E. Ryherd analyzed the data and noted that for the Ice Arena, there is a large power spike that happens during the “peak hours” which increases the demand charge. Building management software would be most helpful to reducing this spike, which would reduce the electricity cost. For the McConnell Center, E. Ryherd noted that the profile is more standard and there is less opportunity to save costs by reducing the demand charge. He noted that solar will be very helpful for reducing this buildings load because the usage peaks during daylight hours.

B. WWTF Solar

ReVision has received permits from the City and may now move ahead with construction. The construction of the solar array will be coordinated with the Wastewater Treatment Facility Superintendent, Ray Vermette and our Facilities Project Manager, Eric Sanderson. The ReVision team will have to work around the construction of the third clarifier but completion is expected around mid-summer.

C. Resilience Plan Update

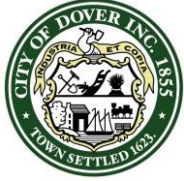
The City has extended an offer letter to a UNH Summer Sustainability fellow after reviewing resumes and interviewing a candidate. This fellow will be working on a greenhouse gas inventory and may assist in outreach related to the Resilience Plan update. The fellow, Mykala McCornaghy will start in late May.

Additionally, the subgroup focused on the Resilience Plan met to discussed how to begin outreach. The group discussed where the Resilience Plan should be housed and made the case for including it in the Master Plan. S. Brown and V. Lyon agreed that the Resilience Plan should be planned to be incorporated into the Master Plan in the future because there will be overlap with the Climate Chapter.

S. Brown also reached out to Bloom, a West Coast-based outreach platform startup, to see if they would be interested in partnering with Dover as one of their pilot communities. They responded that they are interested but may lack the capacity. S. Brown will monitor this opportunity.

D. Energy Commission Annual Report

Commission members discussed their outlines of the sections assigned. Members agreed to send a final draft to Staff by May 1st so members can have time to review before the next meeting.



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E. Woodman Museum Event

The Woodman Museum in Dover is hosting Nature Day on July 18th from 10-4pm. This event is in support of planned restorations of taxidermy collections. This event will connect visitors with local natural science, conservation, and sustainability focused organizations. L. Merchant will attend and bring materials regarding the Resilience Plan update and Weatherize Dover campaign. V. Lyon also volunteered to attend.

F. Energy Tips

Thank you to the members who submitted tips. Staff is compiling the tips that have been sent out in 2025 for the Annual Report.

6. New Business

A. none

7. Other Business / Member Comments:

A. none

8. Call for Agenda Items:

City Council member Lucas Veitch raised questions about the City's electric supplier and CPCNH's next rate period which will be added to the agenda for the May meeting.

9. Adjourn: Unanimously at 6:12pm.

Minutes taken by Lexi Merchant.