

**Town of Boscawen
ENERGY COMMITTEE
Boscawen Municipal Facility
DRAFT MEETING MINUTES
September 15, 2026 @ 5:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Charles Niebling – Chair, Nate Preisendorfer – Vice Chair, Gary Tillman, Fred Reagan, and Josh Crawford – Ex Officio

Members Absent: Sarah Millard

Staff Present: Tanya Decato – Planning and Community Development (PCD) Coordinator, Julie Heystek – PCD Assistant

Guests Present: Gary Moore – Municipal Facilities Director

Chair Niebling opened the meeting at 5:26 P.M. PCD Coordinator Decato completed roll call.

Chair Niebling took a moment to welcome Julie Heystek who is the new PCD Assistant

Minutes:

Mr. Tillman motioned to approve the draft minutes from 5/19/26 as amended stating that Mr. Crawford – Ex Officio was in attendance. Motion seconded by Mr. Preisendorfer. All in favor. None opposed.

Calendar Review:

The calendar for 2027 meeting dates was reviewed and all members agreed that the dates work for them. Chair Niebling asked the PCD office to send out calendar invitations for the scheduled meetings. PCD Coordinator Decato agreed to do that. No objections were raised, and the proposed dates were considered adopted.

Old Business:

Reappointment of Gary Tillman: Appointment expiring in November 2026. The committee agreed that a three-year term is appropriate. Motion made by Mr. Reagan. Motion seconded by Ex Officio Crawford. All in favor. None opposed.

Action Items:

Library and Police Station Roof: Discussion ensued regarding the roof over the library and police station. There were questions about how many solar panels could possibly fit on there. They are in the beginning stages of evaluating the feasibility of an owned or leased solar array on the flat roof. The only access to that roof is by exterior ladders. There is no crawl space. There are questions about if the roof can support the extra weight of the panels.

Capped Landfill: Chair Niebling spoke with Stanley Balch regarding the feasibility of a solar installation on the capped landfill at the Transfer Station. Mr. Balch told him that it would cost

47 \$12,000- \$13,000 per pole to upgrade the transmission infrastructure from the Transfer Station to
48 Route 4 where there is a high-capacity three-phase line. Mr. Niebling counted the poles and there
49 are 40 poles that would need to be replaced. The total infrastructure cost could approach \$500,000.
50

51 The Chair also called Representative Maggie Goodlander's office regarding federal Community
52 Project Requests for funding. Bedford NH has used this grant to fund installation of three-phase
53 power from their capped landfill, so there is precedent for that kind of grant funding. He is waiting
54 to hear back from Goodlander's office.
55

56 The Chair further reported that Revision Energy had estimated approximately 2.5 acres of
57 relatively flat, cleared land at the capped landfill that might accommodate a ground-mounted solar
58 installation. The potential capacity was discussed as approximately 500 kilowatts, subject to
59 further engineering and site review.
60

61 The Committee discussed the limitations of installing solar equipment on slopes, the use of
62 specialized ballast systems, and the need to protect the landfill cap.
63

64 Impact Fees: The Committee reviewed a report concerning the status of impact fees and the
65 upcoming Planning Board discussions.

66 The report indicated that:

- 67 • Impact fees are not currently authorized for use on energy projects.
- 68 • The Planning Board previously removed certain impact fees, including school-related fees.
- 69 • The Committee's May statement had not yet been provided to the Planning Board.
- 70 • The Planning Board had scheduled meetings to discuss impact fees.

71 The Committee discussed the possibility of using impact fees to support municipal solar projects
72 or reduce energy costs for residents. Members acknowledged that the matter involved legal and
73 policy considerations and that the Planning Board would be reviewing the issue. The next Planning
74 Board meeting concerning impact fees will be on September 22, 2026.
75
76

77 New Business:

78 2027 Budget Oct/Nov: The Committee discussed the preparation of a budget request for the
79 upcoming fiscal year. The operating budget is administered through the Planning & Community
80 Development Department. The Committee historically has had approximately \$500 available for
81 expenses, including membership dues to Clean Energy New Hampshire and attendance at energy-
82 related conferences. The Committee discussed the value of the Local Energy Solutions conference,
83 including educational workshops, vendors, and opportunities to learn about municipal energy-
84 efficiency programs.

85 Motion to submit a budget request of \$500 for the upcoming fiscal year made by Mr. Tillman.
86 Seconded by Vice Chair Preisendorfer. All in favor. None Opposed.
87
88

89 Energy Management Consultants vs Affinity LED Lighting: Mr. Reagan presented information
90 regarding energy-efficiency improvements completed at Pennacook Elementary School and
91 discussed a potential opportunity for similar improvements to municipal facilities.
92 The Committee discussed:

- LED lighting upgrades.
- Energy-efficiency improvements at municipal buildings.
- Potential savings from replacing existing light fixtures.
- The possibility of having Energy Management Consultants evaluate the Town's buildings.
- The potential availability of utility incentives and rebates.
- The work already completed by Mr. Moore, including LED bulb replacements, insulation improvements, and HVAC upgrades.

Mr. Moore reported that LED bulbs had already been installed in the police station, library, and municipal building. The next step would be updating the fixtures. He also reported that energy usage at the municipal building had been tracked and that substantial savings had been realized from previous insulation and HVAC improvements. The Committee discussed the possibility of having a lighting and energy-efficiency assessment performed at no cost to the Town.

Other Business:

Public Comment

No public comment.

Action Items

Fred Reagan

- Invite Bob Harvey to inspect the roof and obtain a quote for replacing and reinsulating.

Nate Preisendorfer

- Will check records held at the Municipal Building for plans related to the roof over the library and police station.
- Report back for the November meeting with the roof size, square footage, and any information located regarding the age of the roof and its structural integrity.

Chair Niebling

- Report back with answers from Maggie Goodlander's office regarding Community Project Requests.

Mr. Tillman motioned to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ex-Officio Crawford. All in favor. None opposed. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 P.M.

Next Meeting: November 17, 2026 @ 5:30 P.M..

Respectfully submitted by Tanya Decato