



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH  
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee**

**Tuesday, March 4, 2025, 6:30 pm**

**City Hall Conference Room A  
and via Zoom**

Members of the public may attend in person or via Zoom. To attend via Zoom, you must register in advance. Please click on the link below or copy and paste this into your web browser:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYodO6tpj8uHt16-8JJ05HoBlaCuHFmy4Hi>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**AGENDA**

1. Roll Call
2. Chairman's remarks
3. Approval of minutes (February 5, 2025)
4. Guest: Bill Baber, Dover Energy Commission: large solar array project at Dover wastewater treatment plant <https://www.fosters.com/story/news/local/2024/10/03/dover-solar-array-wastewater-plant/75466442007/>
5. CPCNH update – CEO Brian Callnan announcement
6. Legislative update – HB 760
7. Public comment



**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH**  
**Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee**

**MINUTES**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025**

**For the video recording, go to:**

<https://youtu.be/jyJrBTDYeGU>

Present: Chair Councilor John Tabor, Councilor Kate Cook, Kevin Charette, Tom Rooney, Herb Lloyd, Tracey Camerson, Peter Somssich, Ben D'Antonio. Excused: Betsy Blaisdell.  
Staff: Jillian Harris (Planning & Sustainability Department), Stephanie Seacord (PIO and recording secretary)

**AGENDA**

1. Roll Call
2. Chairman's remarks
  - Jones Avenue solar project preparations are underway. DPW Director Peter Rice is engaged with the regulators and solar “how to” experts. Fence is being fixed and landfill junk being removed. Conducted site walk with the City Manager.
  - NREL assessment of alternative energy for wastewater treatment facilities progressing. Checkin call on scope of work status on 7 Feb. Herb anticipates their report late Feb/early March. Will be asking about any federal funding impacts as a result of recent actions in DC.
3. Approval of minutes (January 8, 2025) on a motion by Tom, seconded by Herb.
4. CPCNH - rate adjustment to 9.7 cents starting Mar 3, 2025. First time CPCNH rate will be higher than Eversource default. Biomass power supplier was unable to fulfill contract and CPCNH learned late in Jan, meaning purchase was made at market power rates. CPCNH does not yet have sufficient reserves to hedge. Full press release from CPCNH:  
[https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e\\_b4b8c091f7764aa785559d94e674bab2.pdf](https://www.cpcnh.org/files/ugd/202f2e_b4b8c091f7764aa785559d94e674bab2.pdf)  
Portsmouth will issue PCP press release to supplement Councilor Tabor’s announcement at City Council and on Facebook. Chair asked PEAC for their concerns and questions to discuss with Henry Herndon:
  - How did things fall apart so late in the CPCNH rate-setting process?
  - CPCNH statement says supplier contract was executed. If so, why isn’t the burden on them?
  - Where was the due diligence? Did something change on supplier side (new owner, bankruptcy, etc.)? Ben: Very alarming -- this was CPCNH’s first actively managed power deal. Where were the successor and indemnity clauses?
  - Why aren’t Ascend and Calpine responsible for making us whole?
  - Why doesn’t the CPCNH press release reference default rates?
  - This was CPCNH’s first actively managed power deal. Where were the successor and indemnity clauses?
  - Kate: Is this a signal of new renewables market instability? Concern for the future?

Worldwide energy trends that would affect Aug rates. [Ben: renewables market is strong nationally but 15 percent of region’s energy comes from HydroCanada which would be impacted by tariffs on Canada]

5. Legislative alert: HB 760 – Councilor Tabor has alerted the City’s Legislative Subcommittee. Cliff Bulow, former PUC Commissioner is actively opposing the PUC’s allowing Eversource to recoup losses from all customers – including community power.
  - Ben: This would be privatization and non-competitive but would like to see CPCNH language less hyperbolic and conclusory. Assuming the collection of losses overlooks frequent actions to rebate over-collections to customers.
  - Kate: Is CPCNH collecting balanced testimony from all the member towns? Sen Watters and Rep. Osborne are engaged. Other members of the Science & Technology Committee? Councilor Tabor will share links to any public comment opportunities.
6. Small municipal solar grant opportunities update – Herb reported the Clean Energy NH is seeing small grants drying up. Tracey recommended looking at the Coalition for Green Capital. Chair Tabor suggested following Lebanon’s leadership example.
7. Green Challenge results – Portsmouth won.

**CONGRATULATIONS, PORTSMOUTH**  
**WE WON THE**  
**SEACOAST ENERGY CHALLENGE!**

Shifting your Portsmouth Community Power rate from Basic to Granite Plus encourages Eversource to get more power from renewable sources and will help cushion CPCNH against future rate increases.

Visit [CommunityPowerNH.gov/Portsmouth](http://CommunityPowerNH.gov/Portsmouth)  
 When you opt-up, let us know! We have a small gift for you.  
 Email [hotline@cityofportsmouth.com](mailto:hotline@cityofportsmouth.com)

Community	Launch Date	Current Accounts	Default Product	Initial Opt-Ups (as of Jun 30)		Monthly Opt-Ups							Cumulative Results (to Date)		
				Opt-Up %	Count	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Net Change	Current Count	Opt-Up %
				Dover	10/23	14,008	Granite Basic	0.8%	95	5	4	2	5	2	5
Durham	3/24	3,245	Granite Plus	1.9%	51	-	1	3	1	5	1	3	17	68	2.1%
Exeter	4/23	6,889	Granite Basic	1.8%	124	3	-	1	3	-	1	1	11	135	2.0%
Newmarket	3/24	4,087	Granite Basic	0.6%	22	1	7	-	-	2	1	2	14	36	0.9%
Portsmouth	4/23	11,675	Granite Basic	2.0%	210	8	6	1	1	1	9	10	42	252	2.2%

- Stephanie offered an example of a ‘perpetual trophy’ with a wood base and miniature solar array, available from Renewable Energy Awards for \$169. Tom suggested that Portsmouth High School CTE might be able to make one. Stephanie will followup with CTE.
  - PEAC invite representatives from Dover, Durham, Exeter and Newmarket to a photo opp at a City Council meeting.
8. Promoting NH Saves and other residential energy efficiency initiatives (continued discussion)
    - Tracey reported another Button Up NH workshop at Portsmouth Public Library (and zoom) on Apr 21, 6-7:30 pm
    - Add Energy Savings corner to weekly City Newsletter after Energy Challenge messaging: investigate if NH Saves has any marketing graphics to promote their energy audit program.
    - [Energy Audits & Weatherization | NHSaves](#)
  9. City energy efficiency initiatives
    - Building energy audit is continuing.
    - Chair Tabor provided report on gas costs – needs consumption [and units of carbon] data. Impact of LEED design at Library is obvious; other older buildings are more challenging.

- Where is City in energy contract cycle? Does CPCNH make sense for next contract? Potential to generate own electricity and save money with Jones Ave solar array even more attractive,
- Energy Manager for Portsmouth – not a good budget environment but should be looking at what Tad Montgomery in Lebanon has accomplished with a 20 Year Energy Efficiency Plan and scorecard.

10. Public comment

11. Oliver Chag, 419 Lincoln Ave. has expertise in developing municipal utility projects and willing to engage in efforts, getting out positive messaging on Jones site.
12. Ben: what can PEAC be doing to create an energy plan starting with the steps and timeline for Jones Ave.: ideas, options, cash flow, funding, timeline, capacity analysis.
13. Suggest inviting Peter Rice to next PEAC for a Jones Ave discussion on Interconnection Study (earmark funding in FY26 CIP – June 2025).
14. Herb: Future PEAC work session: Ask CleanEnergyNH to introduce us to other 7 towns beyond Exeter who have done landfill cap solar projects. NREL has the ability to do the capacity analysis at no charge.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 on a motion from Ben seconded by Tom.

Next meeting: TUESDAY, March 4, 2025 at 6:30 pm Conference Room A.

Location	Land	MW	Developer	City/town benefit	Finance
<b>Bow</b>	Capped landfill	2.27	Kearsarge	\$120,000/yr	Lease, PILOT, 11.5 cents discount on electricity
<b>Somersworth</b>	Superfund landfill	2.6	Aneresco	\$100k/yr	Lease, PILOT, discount on electricity
<b>Exeter</b>	Sewer plant	1.77	ReVision	\$30k/yr 2025-2045, \$150-\$350k/yr after bond retired... electricity savings, RECs,	Bond \$3.6mm, Inflation Reduction Act grant \$1.6mm
<b>Manchester</b>	Capped landfill	3.3	Kearsarge	\$25k/yr	Lease and discount on electricity
<b>Dover</b>	Sewer plant	3.3	ReVision	TBD	Lease or purchase TBD
<b>South Portland ME</b>	Capped landfill	4.5	ReVision	\$20 mm lifetime savings (40 yrs?)	PPA to buy discounted power from ReVision for 6 years, then buy out the project and get no-cost electricity

Sources: Town websites, newspaper articles, developer proposals. These are estimates: A fully accurate comparison would require comparison of all of the town-approved pro formas which are not all available.

Annual benefits derived from “total benefit over x years” statements in presentations. No discount rate applied.

HB 760-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0896

05/09

HOUSE BILL            **760-FN**

AN ACT                relative to utility default service.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Corman, Graf. 15; Rep. W. Thomas, Hills. 12; Rep. Muns, Rock. 29; Rep. McGhee, Hills. 35; Rep. Darby, Hills. 11; Rep. Caplan, Merr. 8; Rep. Ammon, Hills. 42; Rep. Osborne, Rock. 2; Sen. Watters, Dist 4

COMMITTEE:          Science, Technology and Energy

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ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies certain policy principles regarding electric utility default service, including default service rates and recovery for over or under collection. The bill also repeals certain electric utility restructuring policy principles regarding universal service and the provision of default service.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five*

AN ACT                   relative to utility default service.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1           1 Electric Utility Restructuring; Restructuring Policy Principles; Universal Service. Amend  
2 374-F:3, V(c) to read as follows:

3                   (c) Default service should be designed to provide a safety net and to assure universal  
4 access and system integrity, ***minimize customer risk, not unduly harm the development of***  
5 ***competitive markets, and mitigate against price volatility without creating new deferred***  
6 ***costs***. Default service should be procured through the competitive market and may be administered  
7 by independent third parties. Any prudently incurred costs arising from compliance with the  
8 renewable portfolio standards of RSA 362-F for default service or [~~purchased power agreements~~]  
9 ***purchases of power, capacity, and ancillary services to serve default service*** shall be  
10 recovered through [the] default service [~~charge~~] ***charges***. ***To the extent there are separate utility***  
11 ***default service rates, the costs to serve customers on those separate default service rates,***  
12 ***including any prior period under- or over- collections, shall be recovered through the***  
13 ***respective future default service rates over no more than one year***. The allocation of the costs  
14 of administering default service should be borne by the customers of default service in a manner  
15 approved by the commission. If the commission determines it to be in the public interest, the  
16 commission may implement measures to discourage misuse, or long-term use, of default service.  
17 Revenues, if any, generated from such measures should be used to defray stranded costs.

18           2 Repeal. RSA 374-F:3,V(d), (e) and (f), relative to electric utility restructuring policy principles  
19 regarding universal service, are repealed.

20           3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 760-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT                   relative to utility default service.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The Office of Legislative Budget Assistant states this bill has no fiscal impact on state, county and local expenditures or revenue.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Energy and Public Utilities Commission

**To: Chairman Vose and Members of the House Science, Technology & Energy Committee**

**Testimony from Portsmouth City Councilor John Tabor, on behalf of the City of Portsmouth, IN SUPPORT OF HB 760 regarding default service rates and recovery for over or under collection.**

The City of Portsmouth, New Hampshire joined the Community Power Coalition of NH (CPCNH) in 2022 and in February 2023, adopted Portsmouth Community Power as the default electric power supplier to Portsmouth customers previously served by Eversource. Since launching service in April 2023, CPCNH has saved the more than 11,500 Portsmouth Community Power electric customers **\$2.91 million** by purchasing strategically in a portfolio of long and short-term contracts while also offering them expanded renewable energy choices not offered by the default provider Eversource.

As a member of the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire (CPCNH), Portsmouth is part of a statewide non-profit power agency and one of more than fifty Community Power programs statewide whose electric customers have saved a collective \$20 million in electric rates thanks to CPCNH's ability, authorized by **NH RSA 53-E** (allowing local governments to procure electric power on behalf of their residents, businesses, and municipal accounts) to have strategic control over rates, allowing CPCNH to hedge electric power purchases against market volatility and thereby directly benefiting New Hampshire electric customers.

HB 760 protects Community Power customers from a troubling deviation from business-as-usual ratemaking practices by Public Utilities Commission (PUC). It is timely legislative action which, CPCNH argues, prevents the very real threat that “customers would end up paying twice for energy supply – once to their chosen supplier (i.e., Portsmouth Community Power) and once to their electric distribution utility through a compulsory wires charge. By putting an end to this unfair cost shift, it protects fair market competition and customer choice in NH's energy market.”

Imagine if CPCNH or any other third party energy supplier found their rates did not cover their costs, and were allowed to reach into the pocket of those utility customers who were not their contracted clients to offset their losses. It would be fundamentally unfair. Yet this is what the investor owned utilities will be able to do by PUC rules if the utility finds supply charges don't cover costs in a particular rate period. HB 760 prevents this unfair reality from occurring.

As City Councilor and Chair of the Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee that oversees Portsmouth's membership in the Community Power Coalition of NH, and on behalf of Portsmouth's electric customers, I urge the House Science, Technology & Energy Committee to vote to pass HB 760 because the bill supports competition, saves taxpayers money and prevents utilities from privatizing profits and socializing losses.

**From:** Clifton Below <Clifton.Below@CommunityPowerNH.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 11:04 AM  
**To:** Brian Callnan <brian.callnan@communitypowernh.gov>  
**Cc:** Lisa Sweet <Lisa.Sweet@communitypowernh.gov>; Michael Postar <mrp@dwgp.com>  
**Subject:** CPCNH CEO Callnan to Step Aside as CEO 2/28/25

I am writing to all of the CPCNH Member representatives, alternates, and principal executive officers, all blind copied on this email, with the following announcement:

As we approach our third year of services being delivered to our members, our CEO, Brian Callnan, has decided with the agreement of CPCNH to step aside on February 28, 2025 to allow CPCNH to begin its next chapter with new leadership at the helm. While at CPCNH, Brian helped grow the staff to eight talented employees and expanded contractor and service providers to meet our growing organizational needs. Brian will be focusing on recently discovered family health issues while looking forward to what new opportunities are uncovered in the future. CPCNH's staff and contractors will ensure member services and operations are performed effectively.

The Board of Directors of CPCNH will be meeting tomorrow, starting at 10:00 AM and will be considering various actions to help ensure a smooth transition. A virtual link to the Board Meeting can be found on our online calendar here: <https://www.cpcnh.org/calendar>. The agenda will be updated sometime later today.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch if you have any questions.

Yours truly,

Clifton Below

Chair, Community Power Coalition of NH v Assistant Mayor, City of Lebanon

personal office: 1 COURT ST, STE 300, Lebanon, NH 03766-1358

(603) 448-5899 (O), 667-7785 (M) v [CPCNH.org](https://www.cpcnh.org) v [www.linkedin.com/in/clifton-below](https://www.linkedin.com/in/clifton-below)