



CITY OF PORTSMOUTH NH
Portsmouth Energy Advisory Committee

Wednesday, November 5, 2025, 6:30 pm

MINUTES

For the video recording of the meeting on Zoom:

<https://youtu.be/GVQMG86lTs8>

1. Roll call

Meeting called to order at 6:36 pm. Attending, Councilor Tabor, chair; Peter Somssich, Ben D'Antonio. Sustainability Committee: Fred Calcinari. Via Zoom: Betsy Blaisdell, Kevin Charette. Excused: Tom Rooney, Councilor Kate Cook, Tracy Cameron Staff: Jillian Harris, Stephanie Seacord.

2. **Approval of minutes.** As the meeting did not have a quorum, approval of the October 2, 2025 minutes was postponed to the December meeting.
3. **Chairman's remarks** – Chair Tabor noted he had received a follow-up email from Jackson Kaspari at CPCNH to answer PEAC questions raised at the October 2 meeting and offering to attend the next meeting for further discussion. As the offer was received too late for the November meeting, that discussion will be scheduled for the December 3 meeting.

Kevin Charette asked that Chair Tabor communicate to Kaspari that the CPCNH Board packets on their website are not current and that they contain good information. The last packet is dated July 2025. In addition, Andrew told PEAC in October that regular member benefit information would be forthcoming but is not yet distributed to members or posted on the website.

4. Making PEAC permanent (draft ordinance)

- a. Committee agreed that the draft ordinance language can move to Public Hearing at City Council meeting on November 17 with this change in Item A: Mission: replace the word “give” with “advocate for.”
- b. Committee discussed and agreed that the Sustainability Committee representative should be a voting member and that the preference is for continuity and communication between the committees that representative to be the same person but that an alternate could be designated if the member cannot attend a meeting.

5. **Year End report** – Committee agreed that a more formal presentation of the outline Chair Tabor presented to the Council would be a more substantive record of PEAC's accomplishments. Kevin suggested that PEAC might make periodic reports to Council when CPCNH starts issuing the member benefits reports. There are several updates to the committee members' identification:

- a. Ben D'Antonio is Director, formerly energy analyst and attorney for the New England states
- b. Betsy Blaisdell is director of decarbonization at GuideHouse

- c. Tracy Cameron – may need correction

6. Agenda items for December 3 meeting:

- a. Follow-up discussion with Jackson Kaspari, CPCNH
- b. Jones Avenue solar project and SolSmart evaluation
- c. Review of formalized draft Year-end Report

7. New Business

- a. Peter asked for an update on the proportion of renewables in the PCP Basic option – since Eversource has reduced theirs from 23% to 13%. Chair Tabor said this is one of the questions Kaspari will be prepared to answer at the December 3 meeting.
 - b. Peter Somssich invited members to visit his “balcony solar” installation on Saturday, November 8. Betsy Blaisdell accepted and will coordinate a time between 11 am and 2 pm and advise other members if they’re able to join.
 - c. Betsy also noted that her preliminary review of available grants found a \$400,000 opportunity for solar installations on low-moderate income housing. Chair Tabor will forward the details she supplied to Craig Welch, Executive Director of Portsmouth Housing Authority. Open RFPs for grants in NH: <https://www.energy.nh.gov/rules-and-regulatory/requests-proposals>.
8. Public comment – Fred Calcinari reported that the Sustainability Committee is looking at what it would take to electrify the school bus fleet – initial investment is quite high as a Level 2 charger would be needed at the operators’ bus garage(s). Betsy commented that there may be a grant on the list she began reviewing – and that electric buses are much preferred by students and drivers over diesel from a health perspective.

Adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Next meeting, December 3, 2025 at 6:30 pm.