



ESSEX ENERGY COMMITTEE

A G E N D A:

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 @7:00pm, 81 Main Street, Essex Junction

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE	VIA PHONE
Link Here (or go to Zoom App) Meeting ID: 862 4719 7888 Passcode: 024651	Dial: +1 888-788-0099 Meeting ID: 862 4719 7888 Passcode: 024651

In attendance: Will Dodge, Chair, Ken Goodnow, Shawn McNamara, staff representative, Geetha Ganesan, Dottie Bergendahl, Katie Shattuck, Rod Williams and Natalee Braun

ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Approval of Minutes from 06/10/2026 (no meeting in July): approved unanimously
- B. Vacancy Status: we have a new member Ken Goodnow and full committee participation at this time. Geetha spoke with the STEM coordinator about a student member of the committee and he expressed great interest.
Action Item: Geetha will contact the stem coordinator when school starts in August 2026.

SUBSTANTIVE

1. Champlain Valley Expo Participation Decision:
Action Item: consider tabling at the local football games, on election day in November and/or Essex Community Day on 9/19 (in lieu of tabling at the Champlain Valley Fair this year). Shawn will confirm our participation in Community Day and inquire about tabling on election day.
2. Article regarding Essex Spa and Resort Solarization: considering a letter to Peter E. commending him on his efforts to continue building out the solar on his properties:
Action Item: Shawn will check with Katherine Sonnick about posting on the town's Instagram about Peter's solar initiatives
Action Item: Will will draft a commendation letter to be submitted to whichever outlet is most appropriate (e.g., Instagram, letter to the editor in the Essex Reporter, etc.)
3. Charter (Attached):
Action Item: Will will communicate with Greg Duggan, Town Manager, about the updated version of the charter. Subject to any revisions he suggests, we would propose submitting the revised charter to the Selectboard for approval.

4. Upper Main Geothermal Progress:

Action Item: Shawn will explore options for having a test well dug

Action Item: Will will contact Spencer Dole at VGS for TENs design assistance (e.g., installing the sleeves in strategic locations to facilitate future build out of a TEN)

Action Item: Natalee will contact Debbie New to see what Vermont Community Thermal Networks (VCTN) can offer in terms of assistance with obtaining funding, etc.

5. Window Dressers Follow-Up: We removed this from today's agenda (tabling it). Geetha noted that the spa building at Essex Resort could use some intervention (icicles noted in the winter).

6. Other Business:

Action Item: Members will review our current work plan and revise for the required 2027 plan following a preliminary revision by Will. An additional item on the plan could be to clarify our relationship with the City of Essex Junction. In addition, the Building Electrification Institute has samples of innovative programs and the possibility of promoting a rental weatherization ordinance.

Action Item: Shawn will report on how many plug-in hybrids and EVs are in the town fleet.