Craftsbury Energy Committee

January 15, 2026 | Town Hall and via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Kevin Gregoire, Craig Taylor, Ned Houston, Christina Finkelstein, Seth Bond, Jamie Milholland, Buzz Burhans

Kevin called the meeting to order at 7:08pm.

MINUTES

1. **APPROVE DECEMBER 2025 MEETING MINUTES**

MOTION: Kevin made a motion to approve the December 2025 meeting minutes. Seth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

2. **CEC Secretary needed**

Members will rotate when possible. Christina will fill-in as needed.

3. **CEC Town Report**
   - The cover of the 2025 Craftsbury Town Report will feature a photo of the Town Hall basement before and a photo after all the MERP-funded weatherization improvements (!!)
   - In addition to the annual CEC report, a separate summary of MERP activities and outcomes will be included in the Town Report.
   - Kevin will share the reports with the broader community after Town Meeting Day.

4. **MERP Update**
   - Leaks detected from the blower door test being addressed: AC removed (Thank you, Corey Jones!); a hole in corner of building was temporarily stuffed with insulation and steel wool until weather permits a better look; and the basement door will be sealed with foam board.
   - Ecobee smart thermostat recently installed. Since the building is much tighter, heat is on less frequently and for much shorter durations. The Town should see $$avings from less fuel use.
   - HVAC-no updates. Waiting on Bill who should be available soon.
   - One of the six lights in Town Hall was updated from fluorescent to LED. It took about 45 minutes with two people. Additional committee members will help to install the remaining five early next week.
   - Town Hall Solar and Battery RFP. Project calls for installation of solar panels 8' down from the ridge on the south side of the roof. The energy generated from this array, together with the existing Town solar arrays, should cover nearly 100% of electric use for both Town Hall and Garage. There was one bid by Sterling Mountain Solar. Discussion about whether, pending

approval by MERP/NVDA, the bid should be modified to include a generator for the Town Garage, which they had been looking to replace.

MOTION: Ned made a motion to accept Sterling Mountain Solar's current proposal to present to the Select Board and that the proposal may be modified, if approved by MERP/NVDA, to include a generator for the Town Garage. Kevin seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- Town Garage Insulation-Board and Siding. An RFP to address insulation will be issued shortly. Discussion about scope of proposal and whether the ceiling should be insulated with fiberglass or Rockwool. Jamie will investigate costs and speak with NVDA about whether cost differences may be approved.

5. **Window Insert Program**
   - Kevin will send an email soon to past window insert recipients to solicit their help. Need volunteers to complete a few stand-alone, programmatic tasks that are time-bound and/or can be done any time at home.
   - Buzz Burhans present representing Albany. Buzz and Chris Burhans will lead a campaign to get neighbors to sign up in Albany.
   - 2026 capacity/goal for total number of inserts built will be similar to past years (~225 for Craftsbury households).
   - Kevin asked for volunteers to co-host an information table at the Craftsbury Transfer Station. Buzz said he will plan to join.
   - Seth reported cat-proofing success with a polyvinyl covering rather than regular film. Discussion about an appropriate sur-charge to cover materials and whether rolls can come in 36" vs 50", since the latter invites a lot of waste. Interested cat-owners will benefit from avoiding early season failures and not having to have their inserts re-wrapped each year.

6. **Firewood Project**
   - Discussion re potential anti-theft measures. Kevin will investigate the cost of chain-link fencing. $1200 donated by community members and the Ladies Union at the CCC.
   - Discussion regarding potential strategies to ensure firewood for emergencies, especially during the winter months.
   - Donation of 24 cords of log-length wood by VT Forestry (via Jared Nunnery) expected in spring.

7. **Other Business**
   - Brief discussion about 2026 CEC projects.
   - Kevin purchased light bulbs to give away at Town Meeting and at the Saturday Transfer Station informational session.
   - Brief discussion about the benefits of waxed cardboard as a firestarter for non-catalytic wood stoves.

MOTION: Ned made a motion to conclude the meeting. Seth seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

Action Item	Member(s)	Dates
Replace fluorescent lighting at Town Hall	Jamie, Craig, Seth, Christina	1/19
Calculate cost difference of Rockwool over fiberglass	Jamie	Before Tuesday, 1/20
Contact NVDA re feasibility of funding Rockwool over fiberglass	Jamie	Before Tuesday, 1/20
Present Town Hall Solar and Battery RFP to Select Board	Craig, Jamie	1/20
Finalize Town Garage Insulation-Board and Siding RFP	Craig, Jamie	January
Submit MERP quarterly report	Craig	January
Submit MERP reimbursements	Craig	Jan-Feb
Solicit/Share Town Garage Insulation-Board and Siding RFP with relevant businesses	Craig, Jamie, et al.	Jan-Feb
Cost of chain-link fencing	Kevin	Jan-Feb
Cost and availability of 36” rolls of poly-vinyl for optional cat-proofing of window inserts	Seth, Kevin	Jan-Feb
Informational table at Town Meeting	Kevin et al.	March
Share CEC annual report and MERP report to larger community	Kevin	mid-March
Informational table at Craftsbury Transfer Station	Kevin	Weather-permitting