

Energy and Climate Action Committee Meeting

Minutes – 9/08/2026

[Approved 10/06/2026]

Virtual Meeting

Meeting Start: 7:02 pm Eastern

Committee Members Present: Michael DeChiara, Gail Fleischaker, Nate Heard, Greg Day, Dean Gendron

Committee Members Absent: None

Updates

-- Battery Storage at Shutesbury Library (Michael)

Michael provided updates on battery storage at the Library. According to Mark Cappadona, we can leverage CCA mechanisms to pull electricity from the batteries at off-peak rates.

-- ECAC webpage (Gail)

Gail made suggestions to the ECAC page shutesbury.org/ecac:

- Community Choice Aggregation page: change public information sidebar to show quarterly aggregation reports.
- Energy Efficient Actions page: Retains on-going list of actions taken by ECAC. Michael suggested renaming it to Energy Efficiency Reports.

-- Streetlights (Gail)

Gail obtained a list of street lights from National Grid, and performed nighttime reconnaissance showing the state of those lights.

Location	# lights listed	Working Lights	Broken Lights
Totals	11	7	4
Town Center	3	1	2
Lakeview Rd	3	3	0
Leverett Rd	3	3	0
West Pelham Rd	2	0	2

At Town Center: 3 lights in town center listed, only one actually lit; Gail suggests to deactivate (thus stop paying for) the two that are not lit.

On Lakeview Rd, 3 lights are listed and all are operational; at Locks Pond Rd, Farrar Rd, and Jennison & Wendell Rd. Gail suggests removing the Farrar Rd light.

On Leverett Rd: 2 lights at the Highway Dept, 1 at the Fire Department, all active.

On West Pelham Rd: two lights leading to the school lot, both not operational.

Dean and Nate both question who should be brought in on the decision (at least Public Safety). Gail said that either Highway Department or Town Administrator must be the ones who inform National Grid to change lighting, and that the Highway Department has indicated that they do not want to maintain the status of the lights.

Gail will ask for input from Public Safety about any concerns with any of the existing lights, and will then proceed to discuss with the Town Administrator.

-- **CCA (Nate)**

Nate gave an update on CCA with more information from Colonial Power Group (CPG). CPG is monitoring for and has identified some additional households that need information from CPG, which will be mailed out next Tuesday.

-- **Climate Leader Grant (Michael)**

Michael provided an update on the Climate Leader program and the grants we are pursuing. DOER informed National Grid that we wanted an expedited Comprehensive Building Assessment at Shutesbury Elementary School and carried that out with Michael in attendance. Currently we are waiting for the results from National Grid. Michael is handling all communication related to the grant and has been told that we are being recommended for the Technical Assistance grant.

Once the grant is awarded, we will have to produce a procurement document. Michael is already drafting that procurement with assistance.

Michael also discussed a potential “plan B” which will also go into the grant, which will consider all other municipal buildings.

-- **Stormwater Mitigation Implementation Committee (Greg)**

Greg gave an update on the SMIC work; SMIC carried out site visits to view all identified outfalls around Lake Wyola in preparation for a September 9th meeting with GZA. Greg also discussed their idea for a more holistic water control tracking system. Michael will introduce Greg to people involved in the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission.

Gail mentioned that there will be tabling on Sunday, October 4, 3-5pm on the Town Common. Greg will mention this in SMIC and reach out to Susie Mosher.

-- **Microgrids (Greg)**

Greg gave an update on the microgrid research. Greg and Dean met with Paul Fenn and Darcy Dumont, and Paul discussed his “Own Your Power” project and his company, Local Power LLC. Paul created a “CCA 3.0” model, which Greg and Dean will continue to research.

Final Words

Michael and Greg will attend the October 4th Town Common community outreach to represent ECAC.

Minutes

Nate moved to approve the minutes of July 28, 2026. Greg seconded:

Vote: Nate, aye; Greg, aye; Gail, aye; Michael, aye; Dean, aye

Next meeting date

The next meeting of ECAC has been scheduled for October 6th at 5:30pm.

Adjourn

Gail moved to end the meeting, Dean seconded:

Vote: Gail, aye; Dean, aye; Michael, aye; Greg, aye; Nate - Absent (had to leave early).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Day