

**Town of Falmouth Energy Committee  
Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 8:30 AM  
Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall  
59 Town Hall Square, Falmouth, MA 02540**

**Published Agenda**

1. Call to Order – establish quorum/introduction of members
2. Review of meeting minutes from December 10, 2025
3. Sustainability Specialist report
4. Planning for Eversource presentation – Feb 9, 2026
5. Review Draft of Annual Report to Select Board – January 26, 2026
6. Education programs for Winter/Spring 2026
7. Energy Committee Elections – January or February 2026
8. Future Falmouth Enterprise articles
9. Updates on Pure Sky Solar and other renewable projects
10. News and/or new business
11. Date of next meeting
12. Adjournment

\*Note: The meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting (in-person and through remote participation) pursuant to St. 2025, c. 2, which extends the temporary provisions pertaining to remote meetings of public bodies under the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027. Members of the Public can join in by Zoom or audio. Please see the dial-in information below.

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THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH IS SEEKING APPLICANTS TO JOIN THE TOWN'S ENERGY COMMITTEE. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENERGY COMMITTEE AND ITS ACTIVITIES, PLEASE SEE <https://www.falmouthma.gov/453/Energy-Committee>. FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE TOWN'S COMMITTEE VACANCIES, INCLUDING A COMMITTEE APPLICATION FORM, PLEASE SEE <https://www.falmouthma.gov/647/Town-Committees-Commissions-and-Boards>

**Meeting as it occurred**

Prior to the meeting, Scott Mueller had published the Agenda for the Energy Committee (EC) meeting on January 14, 2026, on the town website. He had distributed to EC Members and the Sustainability Specialist the draft Minutes of the Energy Committee Meeting for

December 10, 2025, as well as a second draft of the slides for the Energy Committee presentation to the Select Board.

## Call to Order – establish quorum/introduction of members

A quorum was established.

- Members: Scott Mueller, David Leslie, Eleanor Ling, Paul Skudder
- Guests: Stephanie Madsen (Sustainability Specialist), Charles Rader, Olwen Huxley, Lyn Schad, Jim Dore

### 1. Review of meeting minutes from December 10, 2025

The Minutes were approved as written.

### 2. Sustainability Specialist report (Update December 2025)

- The Town received **\$40,000 in grant funding from MassDEP’s MassEVIP program** to help offset the cost of **four all-electric vehicles (EVs)** and **two plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)**. The vehicles include two EVs for Town Hall, an electric van for the Schools, an EV for the Police Department, and two PHEVs for DPW staff, with rebates of \$7,500 per EV and \$5,000 per PHEV. Transitioning these municipal vehicles away from gasoline will reduce fuel costs and tailpipe emissions while directly supporting Falmouth’s **Green Communities goals for municipal carbon reduction**.
- The **solar power purchase agreement (PPA)** for the **Gus Canty Recreation Center** was signed on **December 10**. The associated lease is scheduled to be brought before the **Select Board for consideration on January 5**, marking an important step toward increasing the on-site renewable energy at the facility.
- **Six Level2 EV chargers** have been installed at **Depot Avenue** and will be ready for use once **Eversource completes relocation of the electrical pole**, the final step needed to energize the stations.
- **Green Communities Competitive Grant Update:** Energy efficiency projects are moving forward at the **Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, Morse Pond School, Fire Headquarters, and East Falmouth Fire Station**. Work at the Chamber of Commerce and East Falmouth Fire Station is expected to be completed in January,

Fire Headquarters work is preparing to begin, and upgrades at Morse Pond School are planned for February vacation, pending final material deliveries.

3. Planning for Eversource presentation – Feb 9, 2026

A coordination meeting in anticipation of the presentation by Eversource on February 9, 2026, has been scheduled by Stephen Dudek of Eversource for Wednesday January 28, 2026, at 8:30 am via Zoom. Members of the Working Group have been invited to attend. That group includes (EC members: Miles O'Brien, David Leslie; Stephanie Madsen (Sustainability Specialist); Guests: John Madsen, Bill White).

David reported that invitations to attend the public presentation had been emailed to our targeted audience (Select Board, Planning Board, Town Meeting members) and to the FalCAN email list. As of 1/14/2026, 30 people had registered to attend in addition to the 4 speakers from Eversource. Stephanie provided the group with hardcopy printouts of the flyer for distribution around town. David will be submitting a press release to both the Falmouth Enterprise and the Falmouth Public Library for this event. Eleanor will reach out to the Falmouth Enterprise editor to inquire whether a reporter would be available to cover this presentation.

Stephanie reminded us that Eversource is holding an Open House February 2, (as rescheduled) 2026, from 5-7 pm at the Gus Canty Community Center in Falmouth. They will present information to the public about the Falmouth Tap. Eleanor noted that there is information about the Falmouth Tap Station Replacement Project available from Mass.gov at <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/falmouth-tap-station-replacement-project> . The Project Outreach Plan is also available at <https://fileservice.eea.comacloud.net/V3.1.0/FileService.Api/file//aehbdgice?G1thcZF W2Q4omN83ORJnEm+/gw0Qt7CkXyVPBodK3Q+PcSxl+blU344Khxm+qpOeg0hKFj9M9l/xQR8+/8GqPvdGgrFe6XR6nglfa80wd3rxFD8G4j981M2Rna9aVTXA>

Paul observed that the project to upgrade the Martha's Vineyard grid connection to the mainland is still ongoing. These are infrastructure upgrades.

Eleanor commented that these upgrades are expected to be completed in January.

4. Review Draft of Annual Report to Select Board – January 26, 2026

Scott reported that the presentations by both the Energy Committee and the Sustainability Specialist to the Select Board have been rescheduled for March 9, 2026. Prior to the EC meeting of 1/14/2026 he had circulated a second draft of the EC slide deck. He proposed to further develop that presentation over the next few weeks and suggested that as part of our goals for 2026 we should focus on residential energy issues. Two areas which require further elaboration are our monitoring of “Federal and State Energy Policy” and our plans for “2026 Outreach and Education”.

5. Education programs for Winter/Spring 2026

The working group for the Eversource presentation on Feb 9, 2026, has discussed the idea of continuing the theme “Falmouth’s Energy Future” as a series of additional public presentations. Stephanie suggested that we should investigate whether we could present some of Miles O’Brien’s PBS shows, perhaps in a larger venue such as WHOI’s Redfield Auditorium, if WHOI agrees.

In previous years several members of the Energy Committee have participated in a “Solar Tour” for which Megan Amsler had been the contact. We discussed whether this format for educational extension might be continued. Paul offered to host a visitation at his home which is now almost totally fossil fuel free and includes a solar array, EV and full heat pump system. Paul suggested that we organize such an event in April or May. Stephanie suggested that we create a Working Group for organizational purposes.

6. Energy Committee Elections – January or February 2026

At Scott’s suggestion, we agreed to defer the next election of Chair and Clerk until March.

7. Future Falmouth Enterprise articles

Eleanor has been managing the scheduling of articles in the “Energizing Falmouth” column in the Falmouth Enterprise. She reported that she met with the Enterprise Editor on January 12th to discuss publication frequency of the Energizing Falmouth column. An agreement was reached to change it to a bi-monthly schedule. Eleanor will continue to be the "Point of Contact" for this project.

Several topics were suggested for future articles. Those included:

- Smart Metering. This topic may be deferred until late in 2026 to appear closer to the date at which Eversource will introduce these meters in Falmouth.
- Balcony Solar. This topic needs to be researched. Paul had spoken to State Representative Thomas Moakley about this topic and noted that there are safety concerns.
- Legislative Bills. The Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM, <https://www.environmentalleague.org/legislative-priorities/>) has identified “2025-2026 Priority Bills”, including many which are related to energy. Eleanor suggested that we should write to the Select Board about these bills. In particular, Bill H.4744 (2025), “An Act Relative to Energy Affordability, Clean Power and Economic Competitiveness.” had in 2025 caused a lot of concern.
- Preview of the year ahead – What is happening in energy.

#### 8. Updates on Pure Sky Solar and other renewable projects

The 3<sup>rd</sup> site plan application review meeting by the Planning Board for the Pure Sky project at the Cape Cod Country Club was held on January 13, 2026. Several EC Members (EL, DL) had attended. Pure Sky Solar had replied to many of the issues raised in the previous two meetings. At this meeting they noted that they had discussed safety issues related to the battery storage system with the Falmouth Fire Department, including an emergency response plan. Eleanor reported that the fire department had no issues with the Pure Sky plan, according to the Planning Department..

During the Planning Board meeting, Planning Board Chair John Druley commented that Mass CEC had issued a report which presented questions and answers related to ground mounted solar photovoltaic arrays. He commended the report to public attention. Topics addressed include Hazardous materials,

End-of-Life/Decommissioning, Ambient Temperature, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Property Values, Public Safety (including fires), Historic Preservation, Noise, Water-Related Impacts, Glare, and Endangered Species and Natural Heritage. The report is available at [https://www.masscec.com/sites/default/files/documents/solar-pv-guide%20\(rev%202024-10-30\).pdf](https://www.masscec.com/sites/default/files/documents/solar-pv-guide%20(rev%202024-10-30).pdf) .

9. News and/or new business

Eleanor noted that she reached out to Cape Light Compact to inquire about the 2026 rebate; she is waiting for the information.

10. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am.