

Meeting of the Strafford RPC Commissioners & EDD Board of Directors

Friday, July 17, 2026 9:00 – 10:30 AM

Hybrid Meeting (Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office & via Zoom)

In accordance with RSA 91:A, the Commission requires an in-person quorum. So long as an in-person quorum, Commissioners may participate virtually. Guests may attend the meeting virtually or at the SRPC Office. All participants, both in-person and virtual, can communicate contemporaneously.

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Join: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/26158346669748?p=4xytesfYGFhcig30qO>

Meeting ID: 261 583 466 697 48

Passcode: fH7Va7Ph

These instructions have also been provided at www.traffordrpcnh.gov. If anybody is unable to access the meeting, please email mtaylorfetter@traffordrpcnh.gov or call 603-994-3500 (x115).

Agenda Item	Time	Pre-Meeting Notes
1) Introductions	9:00-9:05	
2) Commissioner Roundtable	9:05-9:10	Updates from your community
3) Approval of the June 19, 2026 Minutes	9:10-9:15	enclosed
4) Data Centers Presentation and Discussion Guest presenters from NH DES and ISO-NE will speak to existing policy, regulations, and known water and energy factors. Followed by open Q&A and discussion	9:15-10:20	Come with questions, ideas, and prepared for a robust discussion aimed at understanding this new land use.
5) Other Business	10:20-10:25	
6) Citizens Forum	10:25-10:30	
7) Adjourn	10:30	

Reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are available upon request. Include a detailed description of the accommodation you will need along with your contact info. Please make your request as early as possible; allowing at least 5 days advance notice. Last minute requests will be accepted but may be impossible to fill. Please call (603) 994-3500 or email srpc@traffordrpcnh.gov.



RULES OF PROCEDURE

*Strafford Regional Planning Commission
Strafford Metropolitan Planning Organization, and
Strafford Economic Development District*

Meeting Etiquette

Be present at the scheduled start of the meeting.

Be respectful of the views of others.

Ensure that only one person talks at a time. Raising your hand to be recognized by the chair or facilitator is good practice.

Do not interrupt others or start talking before someone finishes.

Do not engage in cross talk.

Avoid individual discussions in small groups during the meeting. When one person speaks, others should listen.

Active participation is encouraged from all members.

When speaking, participants should adhere to topics of discussion directly related to agenda items.

When speaking, individuals should be brief and concise when speaking.

The Strafford Regional Planning Commission & Metropolitan Planning Organization holds both public meetings and public hearings.

For public meetings, guests are welcome to observe, but should follow proper meeting etiquette allowing the meeting to proceed uninterrupted. Members of the public who wish to be involved and heard should use venues such as Citizen Forum, Public Hearings, Public Comment Periods, outreach events, seminars, workshops, listening sessions, etc.





MEETING OF THE SRPC EDD BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Friday, June 19, 2026 9:00 – 10:30 AM
Hybrid Meeting (Conference Rm 1A, SRPC Office & via Zoom)

1. Introductions

At 9:00 AM, Vice Chair Michael Lehrman called the meeting to order and asked for introductions.

Commissioners present: Michael Lehrman, Durham; Mark Richardson, Somersworth; Matt Towne, Barrington; Kate Buzard, Middleton; Mike Bobinsky, Somersworth; Rick Healy, Rochester; Matt Towne, Barrington; Steve Brown, Dover; Lindsey Williams, Dover; Katrin Kasper, Lee; Steve Stancel, Wakefield; Marshall Goldberg, Brookfield; John Roth, Brookfield; John Nute, Milton; Krysta Gingue, Dover

Staff: Colin Lentz, Mike Polizzotti, Jen Czysz

Attendees on Zoom: Joe Boudreau, Rochester; Glen Griswold, Nottingham; John Mullen, Middleton; Jack Wade, NHDES; Kean McDermott, Dover; Michael Miller

Staff attending remotely: Natalie Gemma, Megan Taylor-Fetter

2. Commissioner Roundtable

M. Towne shared that On June 26, Barrington will celebrate the successful completion of a watershed conservation easement project that has been years in the making. The project will permanently protect more than 500 acres of land. Its success was made possible through contributions from many sources, including community fundraising and a \$175,000 contribution from the Conservation Commission. Altogether, more than \$2 million in funding was required, with many partners stepping forward to help bring the project to completion.

K. Kasper shared if you have any buildings that you want to be weatherized, this is the time, especially if you're in Unital or New Hampshire Electric Co-op territories. NH Saves is looking for projects.

M. Richardson shared that at the Somersworth's Planning Board meeting, there was a conceptual presentation made for the new library.

M. Bobinsky reported that the City of Somersworth recently submitted an application for a FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant to support a stormwater improvement project in the city's downtown urban area. While the grant process is competitive, the city was able to qualify by leveraging its current Hazard Mitigation Plan and documenting the project in its Capital Improvement Program (CIP).



Bobinsky noted that SRPC provided assistance during the pre-application phase several months ago, after which Somersworth was selected to submit a full application. The city is now awaiting the outcome of the competitive review process.

K. Gingue shared that the Dover Public Library will be re-opening next Friday, after an extensive renovation and will host an open house. Separately, there will be construction in downtown where they are building two more pedestrian bump-outs.

John Mullen reported that Middleton's Watershed Management Plan's first major implementation project is nearing completion and expected to finish next week. He also shared that the Gonic Dam removal project in Rochester is progressing well, with the lower dam about two-thirds complete and work on the upper dam scheduled to begin later this year. The project, led by DES and partner organizations, represents a significant watershed restoration effort.

Steve Brown reported for Dover that Nebi Park, located within the downtown waterfront development, is now open to the public. A formal grand opening celebration is scheduled for July 14. Brown noted that the park is a spectacular addition to the waterfront, and recent visits to the site highlighted the impressive progress and amenities now available to the community.

M. Lehrman shared for Durham that the Oyster River Dam in Durham has begun the dewatering process. That's also slated for removal over the course of summer, and the water levels have been drawn down considerably.

3. Approval of Minutes of May 15, 2026

K. Gingue moved to approve the May 2026 meeting minutes. L. Williams seconded the motion. With a unanimous roll-call vote in favor, the motion carried. J. Roth, S. Stancel, M. Lehrman, J. Boudreau abstained from the vote.

4. Five Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy

a. Public Hearing

At 9:20 am, M. Lehrman opened the public hearing. M. Polizzotti summarized the public comment process for the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), noting that the draft was available for public review from May 8 through June 7 and that additional feedback was gathered through Commission and Strategy Committee presentations, partner meetings, and public emails. Comments resulted in several updates to the draft, including expanded discussion of age-friendliness, workforce challenges, distressed areas, transportation, tourism, and regional plan coordination. Additional comments led to clarifications and minor edits throughout the document.

Some recommendations could not be fully addressed due to data limitations but will be considered in future CEDS updates. The Strategy Committee reviewed comments on the vision statement and recommended retaining it without changes.

The document includes a variety of photographs contributed by the public and local communities, many of which were submitted specifically for inclusion in the plan.

Additional images were provided through Business Affairs, creating a well-balanced mix of community-generated and professional photography throughout the document.

The Public Hearing closed at 9:43am.

b. Vote to Adopt

R. Healy moved to adopt the Five-Year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. L. Williams seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was conducted, with all members voting in favor. The motion carried. J. Roth abstained from the vote.

5. Annual Meeting Business items

a. FY 2027 Budget Presentation

J. Czysz gave a presentation on the final draft of the proposed FY2027 budget. There are only two lines on the revenue side that are speculative, conservatively so. These include recently submitted Coastal Resilience Grant applications (two) and PREPA grant application (four) and are assumed only one of each is funded. Revenue is slightly lower this year and it is likely that new opportunities will arise over the course of the fiscal year.

On the expense side, all staff are retained. Temporary part-time staff are extended into FY2027 at a reduced number of hours so to complete ongoing projects. Annual salary increases were set at a range of 1.5% to 3.0% depending on individual performance. Health insurance is one of our larger increases with a notable increase to the premiums this year. Additionally, our property and liability insurance also saw a significant increase after being stable for several years. The largest decrease among expenses is anticipated pass-through contractor costs with the retirement of several projects and progress made on others.

S. Brown moved to approve the FY 2027 Budget as presented. M. Bobinsky seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was conducted, with a unanimous vote in favor. The motion carried. J. Roth abstained from the vote.

M. Lehrman stated that the Executive Committee discussed the need to identify new revenue sources for SRPC that are not tied to grants, particularly because grant funding often limits the recovery of indirect costs. He encouraged members to consider ideas such as fee-based presentations, educational programs, and other services that could generate unrestricted revenue and strengthen the organization's financial position.

In response to questions about indirect costs, Czysz explained that SRPC negotiates its indirect cost rate with the U.S. Department of the Interior every two to three years based on audited financial data. While SRPC is currently operating with actual indirect costs of about 117%, its approved reimbursement rate is 112%, creating a gap that contributes to the agency's operating loss. The indirect cost rate includes both fringe benefits and overhead expenses.

b. Elect FY 2027 Officers and Executive Committee Members

M. Lehrman stated that the Executive Committee voted to recommend the following slate of officers and Executive Committee Membership for FY2027:

Commissioner	Current Office	Proposed Office	Community	Commission Term
Paul Rasmussen	Chair	Chair	Durham	04/30/2029
Michael Lehrman	Vice-Chair	Vice-Chair	Durham	04/30/2030
Joe Boudreau	Treasurer	Treasurer	Rochester	06/30/2026
Michael Bobinsky	Member	Member	Somersworth	05/02/2028
Mark Richardson	Member	Member	Somersworth	05/31/2029
Matt Towne	Member	Member	Barrington	07/09/2027
Steve Stancel	Member	Member	Wakefield	08/01/2026
Katrin Kasper	Alternate	Alternate	Lee	11/21/2028
Krysta Gingue		Alternate	Dover	11/04/2027
Curtis Register		Alternate	Durham	04/30/2027

J. Nute moved to approve the Fy 2027 slate of officers and Executive Committee members as proposed. R. Healy seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was conducted with a unanimous vote in favor. The motion carried. K. Gingue, J. Roth, and G. Griswold abstained from the vote.

c. FY 2027 Meeting Schedule

J. Czysz stated she was looking forward to the Annual Meeting that will be held next Thursday, June 25.

The Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Schedule is as follows:

Date	Time	Location	Program
Fri. Jul. 17, 2026	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC
Fri. Aug. 21, 2026	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	EDD/MPO
Fri. Sep. 18, 2026	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	MPO
Thur. Sep. 24, 2026	3:45-5:30 PM	Field Trip	RPC
Fri. Oct. 16, 2026	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC
Fri, Nov. 20, 2026	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	EDD
Thur. Dec. 10, 2026	3:45-5:30 PM	Field Trip	MPO
Fri. Dec. 18, 2026	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	MPO
Fri, Jan. 15, 2027	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC
Fri. Feb. 19, 2027	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	EDD

Thur. Feb. 25, 2027	3:45-5:30 PM	Field Trip	EDD
Fri. Mar. 19, 2027	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	MPO
Fri. Apr. 16, 2027	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC
Fri. May 21, 2027	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	MPO
Fri. Jun. 11, 2027	9-10:30 AM	SRPC	RPC/EDD
Thu. June 24, 2027	11 AM – 2 PM	Annual Luncheon	All

Commissioners agreed to reschedule the June 18, 2027 meeting to June 11, 2027 so that it does not fall on the Juneteenth holiday.

The group discussed potential field trip opportunities, including a visit to the Farmington Solar Array. Additional possibilities include a North Coast freight rail tour. There has also been interest in partnering with the Rockingham Planning Commission to organize a gundalow tour, though participation may need to be limited due to capacity constraints.

6. Citizens Forum

There were no citizens comments.

7. Other Business

Commission members discussed the New Hampshire Electric Co-op's herbicide spraying practices along utility rights-of-way. Property owners may receive advance notice and have an opportunity to request that spraying not occur; however, concerns were raised that spraying may still take place and that overspray can affect nearby vegetation. It was also noted that invasive species may be treated regardless of landowner preferences.

K. Gingue shared that Seacoast Eat Local is having their first large gala and is actively looking for ideas that might be in alignment with the organization.

M. Polizzotti reported that, with assistance from SRPC's Kyle Pimental, the Town of Farmington successfully secured approval for a new Economic Revitalization Zone. The designation covers approximately several parcels along the southern portion of Route 11 near the municipal boundary with Rochester. Businesses that expand or create new jobs within the zone may now qualify for certain state business tax incentives.

8. Adjournment

K. Kasper motioned to adjourn followed by a second from L. Williams. All members voted unanimously in favor. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:35am.

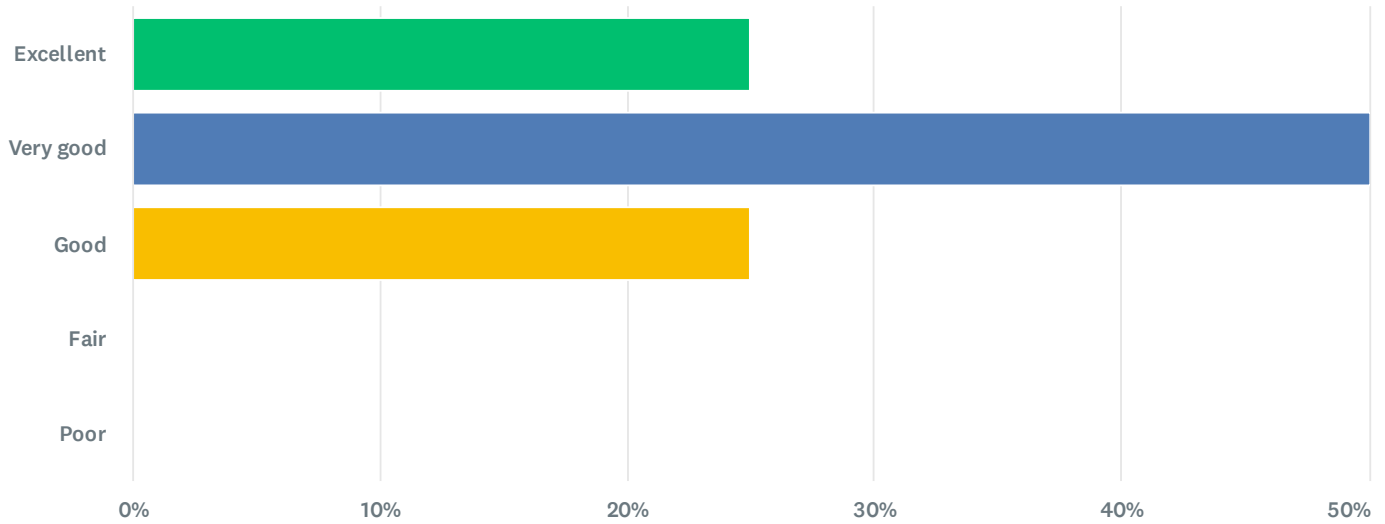
Respectfully submitted,

Megan Taylor-Fetter

2026 SRPC Annual Meeting Thank you for joining us at the Annual Meeting on June 25, 2026. Your feedback is important to us and plays a key role in shaping future events. Please take a moment to complete the following survey and share your thoughts.

Q1 12 responses

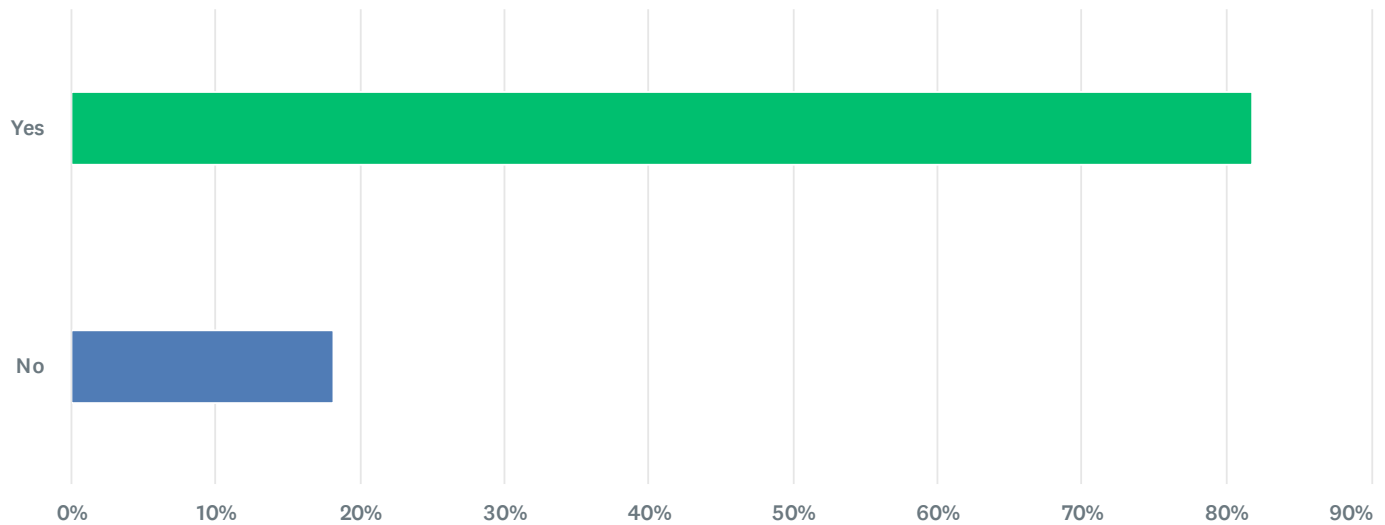
Overall, how would you rate the event?



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Q2 11 responses

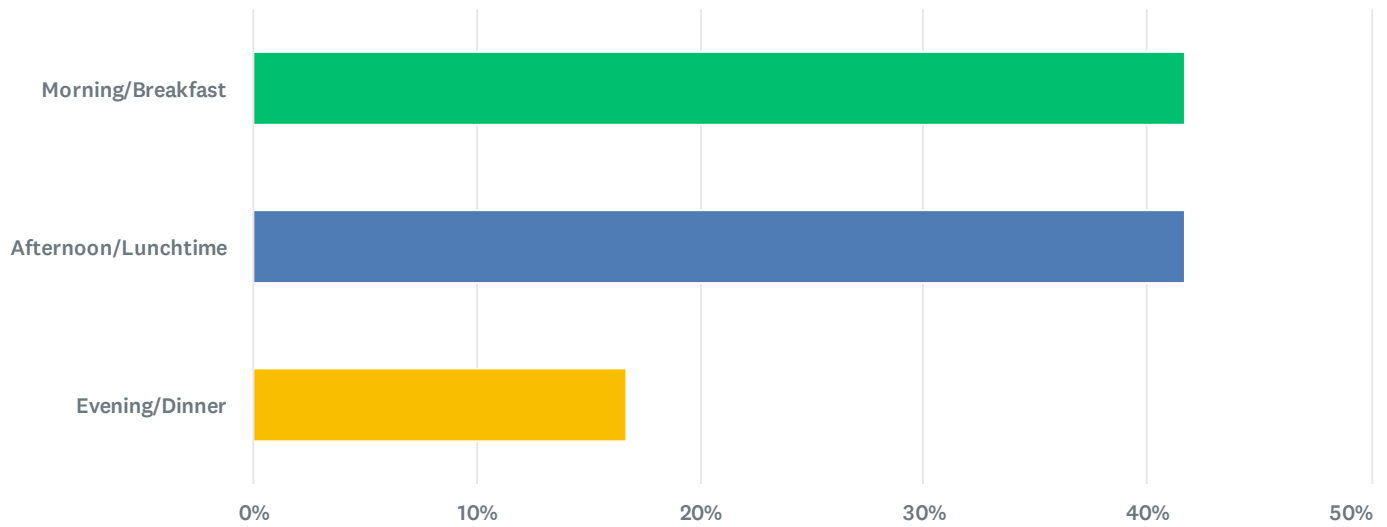
Was the time of day convenient for you?



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Q3 12 responses

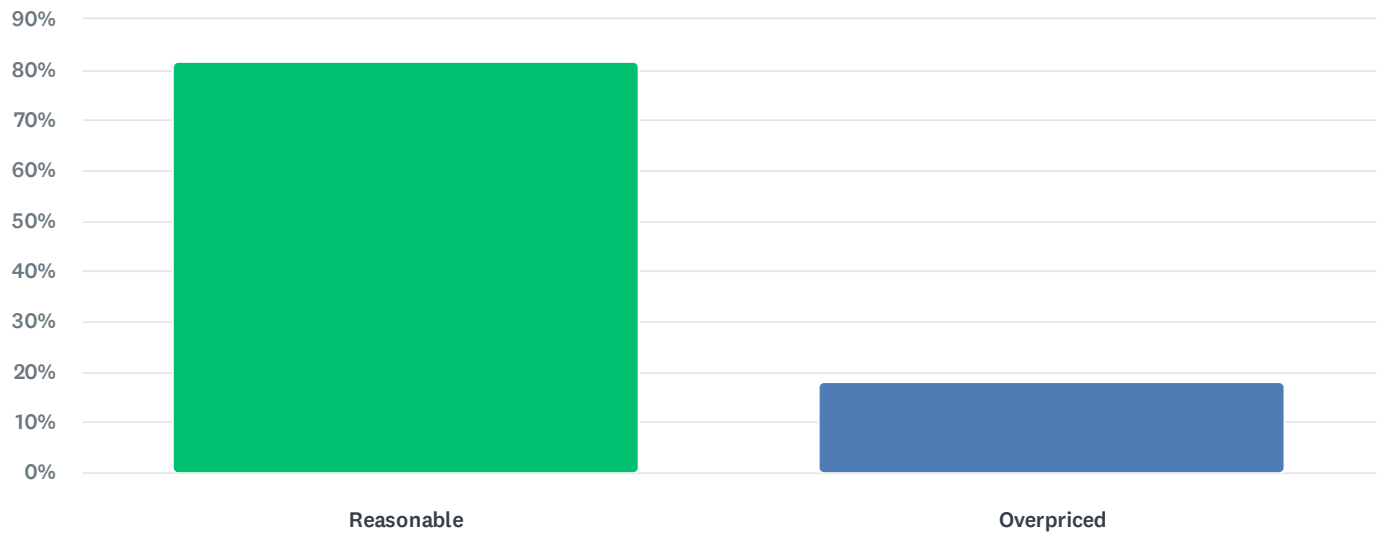
For future meetings, what time of day would be most convenient for you?



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Q4 11 responses

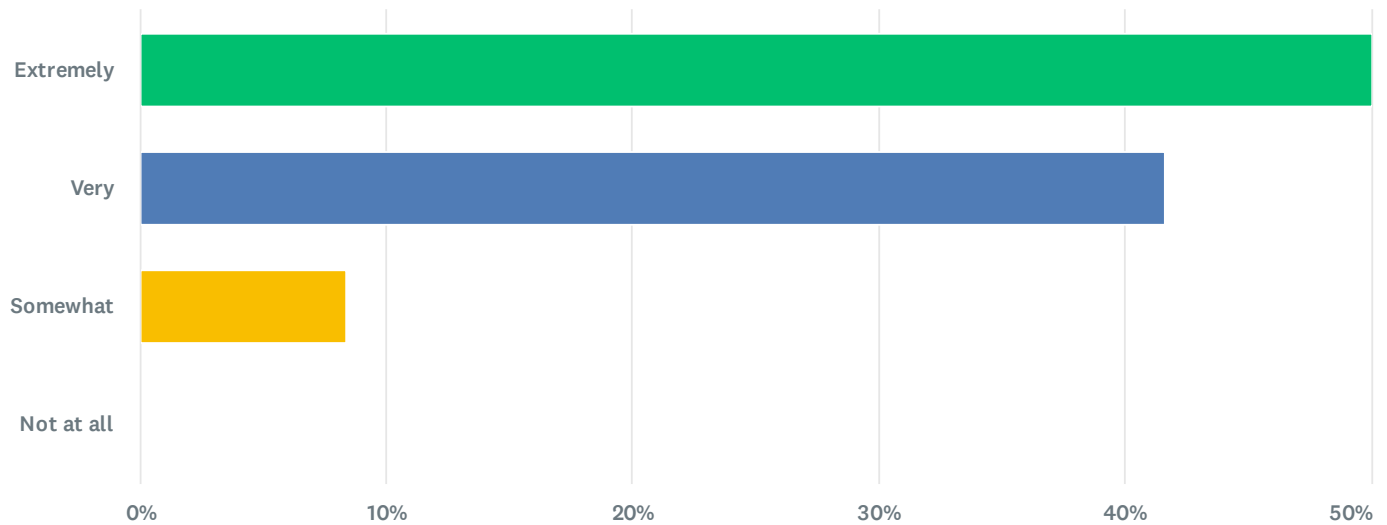
Was the cost reasonable?



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Q5 12 responses

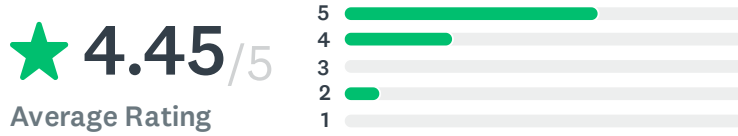
How organized was the event?



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Q6 11 responses

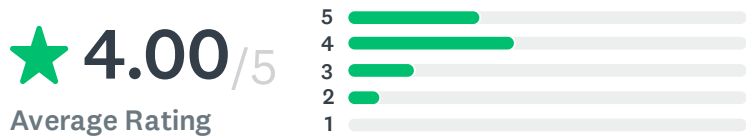
How would you rate the venue?



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Q7 12 responses

How would you rate the meal?



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Q8 What did you like about the event?

Answered: 8 Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It's a good things having State Commissioners in the same room. While I didn't ask a question, I was attentive as I could be to the questions asked and the responses given. See #14	7/8/2026 3:21 PM
2	Having 3 NH Commissioners present, it was interesting to hear their direct comments.	7/8/2026 10:15 AM
3	Great speakers, lots of wonderful people, so well organized!	7/6/2026 4:18 PM
4	Our peers/leadership conversations prior to the speeches. Dinner conversations were great.	7/6/2026 3:23 PM
5	Hearing directly from the commissioners and lots of good networking time	7/6/2026 3:12 PM
6	I liked the format, the panel and the Q and A; I thought that was well done. I liked Jen's presentation and remarks, with the images of the agency over the years, and quotes from past leadership, members. The food was outstanding. service was very high.	7/6/2026 3:11 PM
7	It was a good opportunity to network. The speakers were informative.	7/6/2026 2:29 PM
8	Food was amazing!	7/6/2026 2:11 PM

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Q9 What could be better?

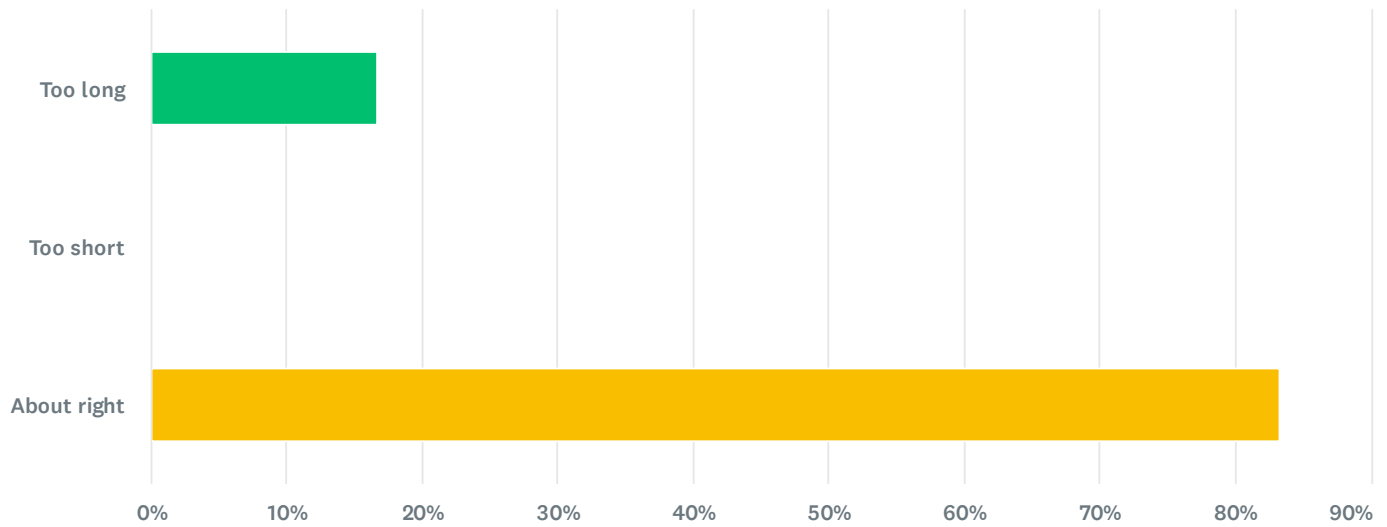
Answered: 8 Skipped: 4

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	As for the food, I had some of each entree, but I'm not a fan of pink beef, so that was a bit disappointing. Cooked on the outside, but certainly not the inside.	7/8/2026 3:21 PM
2	Maybe consider including some staff in a panel discussion forum on one topic with guest speaker(s). Maybe a topic that staff could expand on their views and ideas more so than the typical factual presentations made at commission meetings.	7/8/2026 10:15 AM
3	Please start the programming while people are eating.	7/8/2026 6:06 AM
4	The price sadly. Food was amazing. A lot of us pay out of pocket and it was more than I typically pay for two people to eat out.	7/6/2026 4:18 PM
5	not many commissioners attended (possibly due to the price)	7/6/2026 3:23 PM
6	Dinner could have been shorter; I found that I was done eating and waiting for the program to start for a while	7/6/2026 3:12 PM
7	Hold the event in the afternoon; I like the event at the Oaks; great location for all of us; improve the audio, avoid the reverb noise and improve PA or speaker system.	7/6/2026 3:11 PM
8	I thought the program could have been a little fuller. I remember awards being presented at previous annual meetings.	7/6/2026 2:11 PM

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Q10 12 responses

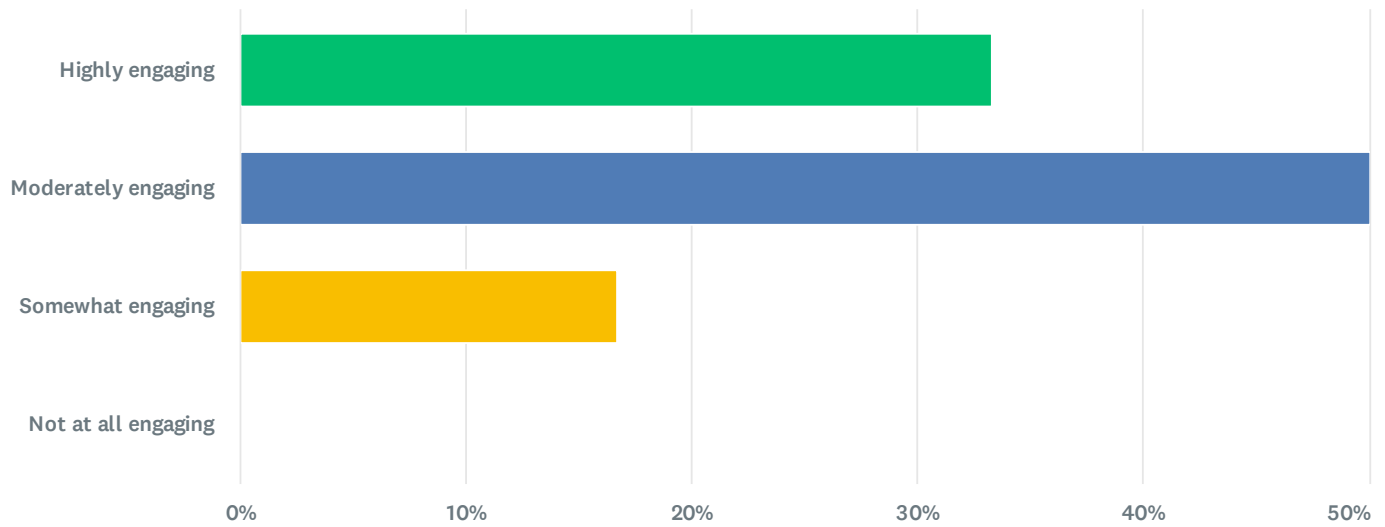
Was the event length too long, too short or about right?



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Q11 12 responses

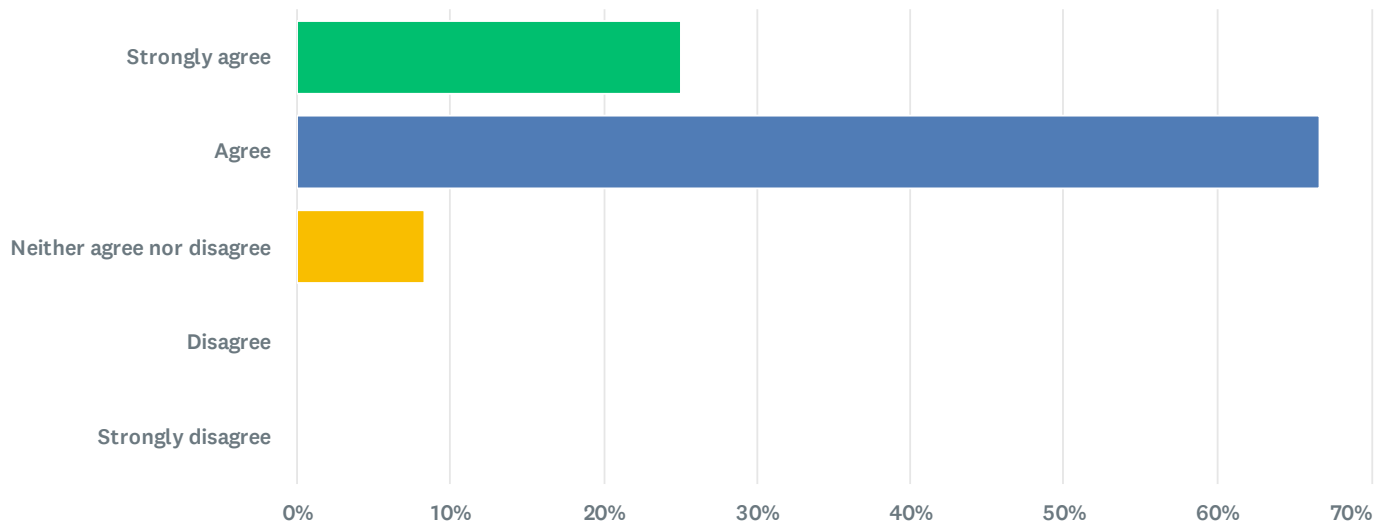
Did you find the presentation format engaging?



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Q12 12 responses

Did you find the meeting topic timely and relevant to your role?



Q13 Please share any comments you have on the presentation, what you liked and what could be better.

Answered: 4 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Instead of the presenters sitting with themselves, perhaps they could be at separate tables for less formal discussions with those of us representing our communities.	7/8/2026 3:21 PM
2	Seating made it confusing with the microphone so we had longer sessions from each person, a little more back and forth might have been nice. But obviously not how it was planned, no worries!	7/6/2026 4:18 PM
3	Was difficult to hear in that echo chamber. I felt I was listening to political speeches and questions were answered politically. My take is they were defending their Commissions. Maybe that was the goal.	7/6/2026 3:23 PM
4	The welcome presentation was well timed and very informational about the history of SRPC; the moderator of the panel did a great job maintaining the flow of conversation	7/6/2026 3:12 PM

Q14 Do you have suggestions for topics for future meetings?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 7

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	It would be nice if the AC wasn't so load. At least from where I was sitting, it wasn't always possible to hear the questions and responses.	7/8/2026 3:21 PM
2	Missed the awards this year. Nice chance to honor someone or some town.	7/6/2026 4:18 PM
3	I thought it more resembled the talk Q and A at the DOT building with the representatives than a celebration. Jens history intro was great.	7/6/2026 3:23 PM
4	Housing, infrastructure, climate (separately or together)	7/6/2026 3:12 PM
5	Like the format and use of speakers and the Q A; topics may be more aligned with local municipal officials and not state officials.	7/6/2026 3:11 PM

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Q15 Is there anything else you would like to share?

Answered: 5 Skipped: 7

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	NA	7/8/2026 3:21 PM
2	I can see pros/cons to evening meeting vs afternoon, maybe discuss before next year's event.	7/8/2026 10:15 AM
3	It was a lovely event!	7/6/2026 4:18 PM
4	Was not a fan of dodging golf carts buzzing around. Enjoyed the Brown Center better. The Q and A period seemed like trying to pull hens teeth. Volunteers from the audience were few and far between.	7/6/2026 3:23 PM
5	Keep the event at the Oaks if we can continue to work on /negotiate favorable pricing for the event. Glad to continue trying to help in this regard.	7/6/2026 3:11 PM

Q16 Your name (optional):

Answered: 4 Skipped: 8

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	Mike Lehrman	7/8/2026 10:15 AM
2	Katrin Kasper	7/6/2026 4:18 PM
3	Don	7/6/2026 3:23 PM
4	Mike Bobinsky	7/6/2026 3:11 PM

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Q17 Your email address (optional):

Answered: 2 Skipped: 10

#	RESPONSES	DATE
1	katrin@cleanenergynh.org	7/6/2026 4:18 PM
2	mbobinsky@somersworthnh.gov	7/6/2026 3:11 PM