

FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 30, 2024, 4:30 PM

This meeting is a make-up for the regularly scheduled meeting on January 16th that was cancelled due to a snowstorm.

In attendance: Fitz, Daniel, Chuck, Bob, Chris

Minutes from November and December Energy Commission meetings approved.

Commission Webmaster

- Daniel graciously volunteered for this role.

Community Aggregate Power

- Chuck has been active as one of Franconia's representatives on the Community Power Coalition of NH Board with attendance to coalition webinars.

Lafayette Regional School Solar System

- Given the reluctance by the Lafayette School Board to support going forward with a solar energy system for the school, the commission strategized how to approach the School Board and school community about raising support for this.
- Suggestions include:
 - Make a presentation to the school board about solar energy, what a system involves and how to finance it (this suggestion was supported by the board).
 - Attend the public LRS meeting in March and raise the topic there.
 - Discuss this with the Lafayette School PTO.

Franconia Town Hall Solar Energy System

- There was no update on the project to bury the cables to and from the utility pole in front of the WC to remove the pole, which is being managed by Allan Clark.
- There was an informative webinar on Direct Pay, also known as Elective Pay, to seek 30% Federal funding of the Town Hall system, on January 17. Notes from this webinar were shared with commission members.
- Fitz is pursuing completion of registration for Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) with the aggregator Knollwood Energy. The certificates are \$27/1000 kWh of production. This energy credit is projected to have an annual value to the town of ~ \$600.

Franconia Ice Rink

- Commission members are collaborating with key stakeholders John and Jennifer Opalinski in bringing a sustainable, green energy ice rink to Franconia.
- The design features:
 - A permanent, refrigerated 160' x 70' surface to provide a skateable ice surface November through March.
 - The covered, though not enclosed, pavilion will support a solar energy system to meet the electrical energy requirements.

- The covered pavilion will significantly reduce energy costs by limiting sun or rain exposure of ice, as well as support use of the pavilion for pickleball or other outdoors activities in the off season.

Municipal Buildings Heat Pumps

- Daniel has joined the Abbie Greenleaf Library Board and will work with the board to introduce heat pumps to help provide heating and cooling for the library.
- The commission will explore the potential for heat pumps for the other municipal buildings.

NH Department of Energy Efficiency Rebate Program

- Bob provided an update on efforts at the state level to increase the rebate cap for energy efficiency improvements from \$6000 to \$8000. These incentives are available for a range of improvements, from air sealing, insulation, and lighting to HVAC measures.

Next meeting: February 20, 2024

Meeting Adjourned 5:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Dubé