

FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 19, 2021, 4:30 pm

In attendance via Zoom: Eric M, Fitz, Kim C,
Chip S, Bob T, Dave S, Chuck L

Minutes from December 2020 Energy Committee meeting were approved.

Town Report: Fitz informed the committee that Karen Foss had inputted the necessary data to enable completion of the energy usage section of the Town Report. Chip has now completed this section ready for the Town Report. But long-term, portfolio data is still not being entered on a regular basis. This needs to occur in order to cost any future pv project, etc. Chip said he is willing to help and would talk to Karen (Foss) about it.

Kim informed the committee that while the Town meeting has been postponed, all submissions still needed to be in by February 2nd. There was a discussion to request savings from street light project (or portion thereof) to be put into Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) for energy projects. Bob suggested any monies could be used for energy analysis and improving town building efficiencies. However, it was brought up that a portion of the loan on the lighting project is still outstanding and being paid off.

Although CRF was set-up last year initially with \$500, need to review minutes to look at details. The fund title needs to encompass "energy usage". Chip suggested requesting \$3,000 this year. Committee agreed writing of Warrant Article requesting \$3000. While Kim was mindful any impact on town taxes would need to be considered. Fitz agreed to draft a Warrant Article to this effect.

Welcome Center Update: Kim stated there was nothing new to report at this time.

An update on Bob (T's) possible lease: Bob has been looking into the possibility of leasing a portion of his land to construct a solar array for the town. Since the previous meeting he had sent a letter to neighbors to gauge opinion. From the response only some objected to the proposal. Bob stated he would do further research on the proposal.

On a related subject, Kim said a salesperson has been contacting her regarding the town signing a long-term electricity purchase contract. Fitz pointed out such a contract might preclude future solar projects, such as the proposal for the new Welcome Center, from happening.

A.O.B.: Chip suggested making sure all new equipment purchases to be energy efficient even including down to light bulb purchases.

Meeting adjourned 5:45 pm

Next meeting: 2/16/21, 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
David Strange