

FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 17, 2023, 4:30 PM

In attendance: Fitz, Daniel, Chuck, David, Eric, Chris

Minutes from September Energy Commission meeting approved.

Community Aggregate Power

- Fitz has taken the lead gathering and circulating information and making contact. “The early towns are saving their residents money. It’s nearly equivalent to lowering taxes. Plus, there are green energy advantages.”
- Bethlehem and Sugar Hill will likely be joining the Community Power Coalition of NH. Bethlehem BOS decided last week to join the coalition.
- The Franconia BOS is supportive of joining the coalition. Eric will put the proposal to join the coalition into the Franconia BOS meeting minutes by Monday, October 23 so that BOS support for joining the coalition goes on record.
- Two public meetings are required for presentation and discussion. The FEC will target having the first public meeting in early December. Ideally, it would be helpful to have someone from the coalition attend the public meeting(s).
- Dave and Chuck have volunteered to be Franconia representatives on the coalition board.
- Meeting of the FEC to discuss draft of a proposal for Franconia at Town Hall on Tuesday, October 31st at 4:30. FEC members will come ready to discuss the JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT OF -1- COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE as circulated by Fitz.

Lafayette Regional School Solar System update

- Fitz met with the LRS school board at their monthly meeting on October 12th. Although the principal Amy Kopp was notified in advance that one or two people from the FEC would attend and provide input during the public comment portion of the meeting, the board gave Fitz a cool reception and was not supportive of pursuing a rooftop solar system for the school.
- Chris will reach out to Amy and one of the board members (Nicole Mackay) who was very supportive of a solar system for the school.

Franconia Municipal Solar Energy System behind the Town Hall

- September was the first full month of array operation. System came online August 23, with both strings/inverters operational, and credit for surplus energy with Eversource, however, only one inverter uploaded data to the cloud. Non-reporting inverter issue resolved by Jack Bingham of Barrington Power with a software update October 3.
- September Eversource bill reflects energy purchased by town (510 kWh) and energy sold by town (1839 kWh) but does not reflect total energy produced by the array because of energy used by TH&WC, both behind the meter, nor does it reflect total energy used by TH&WC in September.
- September surplus energy gave the town a credit of \$170.04, based on 100% credit of energy at standard rate of \$0.12582/kWh, 100% credit of transmission at standard rates of \$0.022201/kWh and \$0.02765/kWh (rate change during this billing period) and 25% of distribution at standard rates of \$0.00705/kWh and \$0.00571/kWh (rate change during this billing period). A standard monthly

customer charge, which is not offset by the array, of \$17.21 is also part of the bill. There are also ancillary charges of stranded cost recovery (\$2.76) and system benefits (\$4.62).

- Eric asked about burying the cables to and from the utility pole in front of the WC to remove the pole. Chris will reach out to Allan Clark, who was the project manager for the WC build and installation of the Town Hall solar system. Kim Cowles was project manager for certain other aspects of the WC/Solar System/parking lot project, including removal of utility poles along Main Street.
- Though there was no update on Direct Pay to seek 30% funding of the Town Hall system, there is an “Informational Webinar on Inflation Reduction Act’s Clean Energy Tax Credits for Tax-exempt and Governmental Entities” Monday, October 23 at 11 AM.

EV Charging

- Daniel reported on procedure and rule changes with Tesla charging stations. Tesla has said it will open chargers from its Supercharger (Level 3) and Destination Charger (Level 2) network to non-Tesla vehicles by the end of 2024.
- The FEC advocated that Eric/BOS work with Mark Hesler and Thad Presby of the Planning Board to add charging stations to the Master Plan. Daniel will contact Monica Laflamme of the Planning Board.

EV Tow Planes

- Daniel reported on recent developments with EV glider tow planes. He has been in touch with the company Aura Aero, a French aviation start-up which is setting its sights on becoming the "Tesla of the skies" with the development of electric-powered aircraft. Commercialization of an electric glider tow plane is planned for 2025. He will share this information with Tom Ganz of the Franconia Soaring Foundation.

Next meeting: November 21, 2023

Meeting Adjourned 5:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Dubé