Franconia Energy Team Meeting Notes – 5/20/15

Present: Fitz, Karen, Dave, Bob & Chip

Guests: Eric Meth, Alan Clark

The meeting started with introductions

The conversation then quickly turned toward our Q&A session with Alan Clark, the town’s building inspector. The team had talked about wanting to get builders and homeowners (that are building new houses), to build more energy efficient homes and how to get information in their hands during the building permit application process. Alan states that the state energy code is required for builders but no inspections for insulation work are performed during construction as there is no extra time to do this. Alan also wanted to make sure that the building permit application process isn’t more complicated than it already is. Alan feels strongly that the buildings are more energy efficient now, especially with the new energy code being adopted this year. Bob suggested possibly a letter going out to the contractors and homeowners once an application has been filed telling them about the rebate programs through the electric utilities based on the home being Energy Star rated. Chip suggested that we inform the homeowners of educational resources as well as suggesting them to police their contractors to make sure the insulation is installed correctly and completed in the regulations of the energy code. Alan said that once the application is turned in the contract is already signed and there is no way to change the details of the house. The last thought on this conversation is to talk to the realitors in the area and develop some informational brochures for them. There was also a discussion that the town of Durham is really working hard toward making energy efficiency a priority. Alan also mentioned that the new safety services building only spent about ½ of last year’s heating bills to heat the building this year and that this is a very efficient building. We decided to table the discussion and think more about it in the future.

The next conversation was Karen’s and Fitz’ tour of the water department. There are 5 meters and a few buildings that house the equipment, use electrical and one building in particular that uses the heat. The heated building is concrete that is heated but has louvered vents. The thought was to look at the plans of this building and then have Chip and Bob come up with some recommendations on how to make it more efficient and use less. Karen said that she would work on getting the blue prints from the town.

Fitz mentioned that he heard back from one guy at Eversource in regards to re-lamping but that guy suggested another person to try and Fitz is waiting to hear back from that other person.

The last discussion was about the town master plan and Eric said there is no mention for energy efficiency for the new plan but they are soliciting tax payers on what they would like to see in the new master plan.

Meeting adjourned 5:29