Franconia Energy Commission

September 22, 2015

Minutes

In attendance: Bob Tortorice, Jim Fitzpatrick, Eric Meth, Chip, Dave Strange, Karen Foss

Water Building

Bob and Chip have not yet inspected the Water Dept building. Chip spoke with Mac who said the building is well-designed with good insulation, a new more efficient heater, and a dehumidifier. They would still like to see the building. Eric will contact Ray Pelletier to make an appointment for Bob and Chip to meet at the building.

Portfolio Manager

There is a webinar on Wednesday at 1pm to learn how to use the website, enter data, pull down reports. Karen and Fitz will attend.

Franconia’s figures are up to date in Portfolio Manager, so the year’s figures can be put together for the Town’s annual report at any time. Karen will work on it.

All commission members were given the web address, username and password for PM and the Town’s account.

Karen will contact Tina Peabody for Lafayette Elementary and Profile School electricity figures, so they can also be uploaded to PM.

Profile School Solar Project

Yeaton Assoc was engaged to evaluate the solar idea. He is not enthusiastic about Power Purchase Agreements, but is enthused about Energy Service Companies that promise energy savings through efficiency upgrades. Minutes of the last board meeting are not yet available. More to come.

Solarize

In January 2016, ARET will start its Solarize campaign to enable residents and small businesses to buy and install solar panels at a discount, depending on volume. The Franconia Energy Commission may be called upon to help with some of the promotions.

Bob reported that he and Peter Dugay have teamed up to form Efficiency NH (?) and would like to have an opportunity to bid on the Solarize business.

Eversource – Streetlights

Dave is working on this but has lots of questions. 2005 was the last re-lamping. When should the lamps be changed to LED (lamp and fixture)? He will look into costs and any available rebates. Some lights can be eliminated. We decided that the CIP should have this on their spreadsheet for future appropriations. Bob will get contact numbers for Light Tech and Needham Electric and pass on to Dave.

Town Garage

The Selectmen visited the garage during one of their summer meetings; Fitz and Karen attended to get an idea of how energy was being used/wasted. The old overhead doors don’t keep in the heat. The overhead heating system does not get down to the shop floor. The employees find it difficult to work on the vehicles in winter conditions. During the 2008-09 audit, Bob and Jack Cook made some recommendations to install Styrofoam on the outside concrete walls and to add weather stripping. These were not done. Bob and Chip will also try to get in to inspect the situation.

Energy Chapter for the Town’s Master Plan

All members thought that we should have a chapter and that it should encompass a 10 year span. During the next month all members will make a list of chapters that they think should be included. We agree that it should be concise enough that people will read it.

Other Business

The new buyer of Jack Cook’s house may be a good candidate for this commission.

The PUC rebate of solar installations will drop to $2,500 (from $3,750) on Oct 2.

Copper Cannon will put up a 15kw solar system using their own funds; Revision is installing.

Karen suggested that an Electrical Vehicle charging station in the center of Town might be a project to pursue.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30.

Next meeting: October 20, 4 pm at Bob’s house.