

**FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
December 15, 2020, 4:30 pm**

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

Minutes from November Energy Committee meeting were approved.

Meeting began with update on proposed new Welcome Center/warming hut building. Kim requested square footage cost numbers for various parts of the project. Bob suggested \$175 per sq ft for living areas and \$150 per sq ft for unheated sections.

Discussion of a Warrant Article for Welcome Center project took place. This included paving of parking lot, solar portion, and some possible drainage issues. Kim suggested project could be completed in phases if financially necessary.

The actual format of Town Meeting to be determined given the current Covid-19 situation. Discussion of format included in-person socially distanced, via Zoom, or a combination. Kim said more information would be available online ahead of the Town Meeting date.

Fitz said proposed size of solar array should cover new Welcome Center and Town Hall electricity needs. Pay-back time and a possible low-interest loan to be figured out.

Next the issue of portfolio manager was discussed. Currently, the town data is not being inputted. Data is required for energy section of the Town Report. Fitz suggested he talk to Karen re data. Chip to write energy report for Energy Commission for inclusion in the Town Report.

Group net metering update: N.H. legislature have enacted legislation to enable a generation credit for various town buildings.

Per last meeting, further discussion of possible lease of Bob T's land for town solar site.

Northern Pass funds, Kim drafted a letter to go out to contributors, not sent out yet though. The majority of contributions were \$100.

Reactions to last month's "Raise Green" presentation: Opinion was the option was not really feasible for Welcome Center project because Raise Green envisages large-scale solar projects.

Possible recruitment of new members discussed.

Any Other Business: Pump station energy use: Bob had met with a contractor involved with construction of the pump station. Contractor suggested pump station “over designed” by 50-60%, therefore possibly explaining the excessive energy use?
Next meeting: January 19, 2021

Meeting adjourned 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,
David Strange