

FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMISSION

MINUTES

January 20, 2026, 4:30 PM

In attendance: Dan, Chris, Dave, Bob

Minutes from December Energy Commission meeting approved.

Franconia Town Hall Solar Energy System

- Pole removal in front of the Welcome Center, including burying the lines, is being managed by electrician Justin Poulton. Work will extend into 2026.
- Meter at the utility pole (72 358 500) is not connected to anything and is to be returned to Eversource (rental ~ \$21/month).
- Removal of the pole will also remove the attached streetlight. Replacement of the streetlight with alternative lighting should be incorporated into this project.
- Municipal solar expansion
 - IRA program ends Dec 31, 2026
 - Franconia expansion at Town Garage/Transfer Station (combined?) and Dow Pavilion
 - Outreach to Amy Kopp to revisit discussions with school about rooftop solar energy

Dow clock lighting: to be completed by Eric and Dave, TBD

Energy Efficiency Programs

- The Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative has announced that they will be presenting the informative NHSaves Button Up workshops. Bob will head this up for Franconia, with a workshop at the Town Hall later in 2026.
- Replacement of town buildings' fossil fuel heating with heat pumps

Energy and System Efficiency Audits

- Restart energy audits, as part of reviewing town energy usage.
- Franconia Safety building: outreach to Fire (Chief Tyler Gaudette) and Police (Chief Martin A Cashin) about managing energy usage.
- Include water system, as this is the single, largest consumer of municipal electricity. Partial energy audit of the Franconia Water Treatment Department was conducted 12/4/2025 by Rachel Pluchino, Franconia Water Dept, Pete of LRW Water Services (operator), Steven Boles, Process Energy Services, Christina Rambo, NH DES.
 - Energy audit of Water 5 on Water Works Rd and Water 4 on Coal Hill Rd. Water 5 audit was incomplete because the VFD pumps (variable frequency drive) were programmed to only operate at 0% or 100%, defeating the VFD optimization feature. A revisit is planned in 2026, date TBD.
 - A more comprehensive audit should include water systems 1,2 and 3 at Mittersill site.

Energy use by town buildings

- Completed a report of Franconia municipal energy usage for CY 2025, which will be included in the town financial report.

Ongoing Town Business

- BOS is pursuing a refund from Fidium/Consolidated for \$27,000 for work not done.

Next meeting: February 17, 2026 @ 4:30 at the Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned 5:50 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Dubé