

FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMISSION January 17th, 2023, 4:30 PM MINUTES

In attendance: Fitz, Chuck L, Chris D, Daniel Z

Meeting Chair: Chris D

1. Town energy usage (from Town Reports)
 - a. Chuck has been working on it, and has $\frac{3}{4}$ of the data, but still needs the last $\frac{1}{4}$ covering April-June 2022.
 - b. One benefit of having this data is to know how much energy is left to offset via future solar PV installations.
2. Energy commission report
 - a. Fitz sent out a draft to the rest of the commission
 - b. it's still open to changes but needs to be submitted by Feb 1st
3. Town solar array update (behind town hall)
 - a. Chris D will follow up (again) with the installer (Ted at NECSS) to finish the installation/hookups
 - b. Eversource will need to inspect the system and change out the meter before it can be turned on
 - c. We should be able to get a rebate of 20-30% of the system cost (via the Inflation Reduction Act)
4. EV charging
 - a. No confirmation of the grant proposal recently submitted by Chuck L; he will follow up
 - b. Town would need to approve spending the full amount up front conditional to grant approval, and the grant funding would be paid out after the project is complete
 - c. Commission agreed it's very unlikely we can add this to the town 2023 meeting, so 2024 is the most likely
 - d. Daniel suggested pursuing private sector options in the meantime; he will contact more local businesses, including Garnet Hill, Franconia Market, Iron Furnace, Dutch Treat, Chef Joe's, and maybe others.
5. Emergency building solar
 - a. Fitz: because of the site, it would be too expensive, and the payback period would be too long
6. Franconia Soaring Center
 - a. They received a grant from Northern Borders Regional Commission to construct a new facility at the gliding field
 - b. Commission wants to stay involved and encourage a net-zero building
 - c. Fitz is in contact with someone from the club, and plans to attend future meetings when they happen
7. Lafayette school (solar)
 - a. Chris attended a school board meeting; they were open to the commission submitting a proposal
 - b. A new roof is being installed summer 2023, so 2024 may be the earliest a system could be installed
 - c. Chris will work on a proposal

- d. Fitz says that an additional source of funding is available for schools but it's too late to apply this year
- 8. Large solar array at the airport
 - a. Fitz (or another commission member) will bring up the issue at their next meeting, if we're able to attend
- 9. Community aggregated power (CAP)
 - a. Fitz: we need a separate committee to move things forward, not much interest so far
 - b. Chris asked how this would affect existing customers with net-metering agreements with Eversource, if a different company was selected;
 - c. Anyone will be able to opt out of the CAP, and continue with whatever provider they have
 - d. Fitz will find the list of other towns that have been working on bringing CAP to their community

Next meeting: Feb 21, 2023

Meeting Adjourned 5:40 pm

Respectfully submitted, Daniel Zajic