**FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**March 20, 2019; 4:45 pm**

In attendance: Fitz, Kim C, Karen F, Dave S, Chip S, Eric M, Bob T

Absent: Chuck

Visitor: Paul Foss

Minutes of Feb meeting were approved.

Energy Policy for Franconia: Dave will compose a draft based on Littleton’s model for next meeting.

Town Building energy costs are being aggregated into one account. We think this relieves department heads and employees of accountability. Eric will mention this to Holly.

100% Renewable Towns research:

 Concord – Fitz

 Temple – Fitz – started with a simple petition; very amorphous objectives at present

 Hanover – Karen; 3 prongs: reduce energy consumption, increase generation of renewable energy, provide customers with a 100% renewable power purchasing option.

 We concluded that it is helpful to learn about other towns and how they are approaching this stretch goal, but we have to come up with a goal and plan that best serves Franconia.

Mission Statement: We should have one.

Solar Project Idea – Paul Foss proposed the following idea: Franconia, Sugar Hill and Easton enter into a community solar project that would cover the cost of the towns’ electricity. Elements of the plan include:

* One MW capacity = 1.2 gigs kWh/yr = $200,000 of electricity on less than 5 acres with 3,000 panels.
* Go out to bid for landowners who would be encouraged to come forward with compensation for the use of their land for 25-35 years. The Town leases the land for 35 years.
* Create a Tri-Town Energy Commission: Easton 1, Sugar Hill 2, Franconia 4 members
* 50% paid for by USDA; $1mm to $2mm
* We can externalize or internalize the work. We have the brain power.
* Ted Vansant-Holderness
* Approval at the March 2020 annual meeting; operational in 2021; eliminate electric bills in 2021.
* Eric will ask the Board of Selectmen their thoughts. He will also reach out to Easton BOS.

EPA Portfolio Manager – Karen will work with Jen. We were waiting for after town meeting.

Next meeting: April 16, 4:45. Chip will facilitate.

Meeting concluded at 6:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Foss