**FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**April 14, 2020; 4:30 pm via Zoom**

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

Guests: Gilbert Brown and Lauren Stacey of Freedom Energy

Energy Policy – Chip revised Littleton’s model. He will give to Eric to discuss with the BOS. The policy is important now that the Town has voted to establish a capital reserve fund. Chip will circulate again.

Town Meeting Review – A Capital Reserve Fund was voted in with $500 seed money. The Town also voted $100,000 toward a future public bathroom/warming hut.

Community Choice Aggregation – Gilbert and Lauren explained how this is a means to maximize buying power of a community and to directly influence the source of its power (renewable). SB286 makes this possible. Lincoln and Londonderry are in the initial phase of adopting a CCA. Up to implementation Freedom Energy is paid through the supplier and the fee in built into the fixed price of the contract. Gilbert said the administrative structure could be either: 1) the California structure, which is quasi government, or 2) Freedom Energy does everything pro bono. The committee thanked Gilbert and Stacy for meeting with us. There is more research and discussion to be done.

EPA Benchmarking Webinar – sponsored by Local Energy Solutions is taking place of 4/28 at 2. Karen emailed Jenny to take advantage of this. She will follow up with her.

New Town Public Restroom, Warming Hut, CC Info Booth – With $100,000 voted for this, the committee sees an opportunity to advance the project as well as propose the structure to house solar panels. The Northern Boarder Regional Commission has a grant which will fund 50% of the estimated $250,000 building. Kim mentioned that the Water Department is also applying for a NBRC grant to repair water lines on the north side of Town. There was agreement that the Energy Commission should not compete for a grant at the same time.

Fitz will send a link to the application. Kim will send a link to the existing design and estimates. The BOS will have to authorize, so Fitz will meet with them on Monday 4/20. The structure’s design is 25’ x 50’, have a slab base, is 2.5 times larger than the existing building, will house a COC office, public bathrooms, warming hut, and equipment storage room. An air source heat pump will heat the building and solar panels will offset all of its electricity load with extra for the town hall and/or library. Committee members agreed to review the application and get started on it.

Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved.

Profile High School meeting and vote was postponed to May 14.

Next meeting: April 21 at 4:30 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Foss