**FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**April 25, 2020; 8:00 am at Ice Rink**

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

Visitors: Kevin Johnson, Peter Grote

New warming hut/public bathrooms/COC office: Bob has created a sketch of the building and estimated of approximately $197,000. Copies were passed around. The sketch includes: an office for the Chamber of Commerce, 2 bathrooms, a warming hut, a space for mechanicals and rink maintenance equipment, and a front porch running half the length of the building.

 The committee met to determine the best location for the planned 24’ x 54’ building. Because of the existing water line, it should be sited further back than the original. Chip suggested a redesign to the roof to a shed structure to enable a more optimal situation for the solar panels, which could have the capacity to cover the electrical costs of the new building, the library and the town hall. A shed roof would also be more in keeping with local character. There will be paving up to the entrance to make it accessible. Septic and leech field will be sited on the other side of the boulders.

 Kevin was asked if a physical office for the Chamber is still necessary. He emphasized that face-to-face contact is still important for visitors to town. They are ambassadors for a number of towns in the region who have given up their public spaces. About 1,200 to 2,000 visitors a year stop at the booth from summer through foliage season. Franconia Notch Regional CC disseminates info for Bethlehem, Twin and Bretton Woods. Kevin will solicit support from Chamber members for this project.

 Fitz mentioned that he has also been talking with the NH Community Development Finance Authority which has low interest rate loans for this kind of project.

 Bob will work on revisions to the plan.

Next meetings: April 28 at 4:30 via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Foss