FRANCONIA ENERGY COMMISSION

MINUTES

October 21, 2025, 4:30 PM

In attendance: Bob, Eric, Chris, Dave

Minutes from September 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. Justin approached Needham Electrical about purchasing the PVC pipe to fund the remaining work, but Needham made an untenable offer, so Justin will purchase the surplus PVC. The goal is to complete the pole removal work by fall, however, it may extend into 2026.
- Meter at the utility pole (72 358 500) is not connected to anything, though it still displays a reading. The meter needs to be returned to Eversource.
- 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

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

Energy Efficiency Programs

- Proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), of which NH is a participating state, goes into the state Energy Efficiency Fund, which is administered by the NH Public Utility Commission. These funds support energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions generated in New Hampshire and provides up to $6,000 in rebates on overall improvement costs through the NHSaves program. An energy audit through this program is free.

- 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 in January.

- Button Ups are a one-to-one-and-a-half-hour presentation about improving the energy efficiency of your home. It covers energy saving tips and the NHSaves utility partners' energy efficiency programs. Participants will learn about saving electricity, insulation and air sealing, energy audits and weatherization, rebates on electric and gas appliances, the Home Energy Performance program and other utility and government energy efficiency incentives. New Hampshire residents that want to use energy wisely and save money will find the information very useful. These workshops are sponsored by the NHSaves utility partners and are non-cost. They may be in-person or virtual via Zoom.

Replacement of town buildings' fossil fuel heating with heat pumps

- Restart energy audits, as part of reviewing town energy usage municipal electricity.
- Include water system, as this is the single, largest consumer of municipal electricity. Energy audit of the Franconia Water Treatment Department by the NH Department of Environmental Services will be conducted either Nov 18 or 19.

Energy use by town buildings

- Handout (emailed) details data capture activities. We will use Google Sheets and Excel for this activity for the 2025 report.

Ongoing Town Business

- Broadband ribbon cutting ceremony September 17 at the Dow Pavilion.
- Library ADA bathroom ribbon cutting ceremony September 22.
- BOS is pursuing a refund from Fidium/Consolidated for $27,000 for work not done.
- Eric is checking into switching Tri-town Transfer Station internet service from Starlink to Fidium.

Next meeting: November 18, 2025 @ 4:30 at the Town Hall.

Meeting Adjourned 5:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Dubé