

Town of Franklin Public Hearing: Local Law 1  
June 10, 2026 at 5:00 PM  
Town Hall, 7 Cold Brook Road  
Draft Minutes

Board Members Present: Supervisor Dorothy Brown, Council member Richard Brandt, Council member Leo Demong, Council member Anne Marie Nightingale-Duprey, Council member Susan Alexander

Others Present: Town Clerk Amy McCormick, Highway Superintendent Jacques DeMars, Attorney for the Town Joel Peller, Alison King, Paul Capone, George Stowers, Bradley Merrill, Tim Santos, Keith Silliman, Franklin County Legislator Joe Shoemaker, Tim Sheard, Tamara Peary, Dan Plumley, Debra Spellman, Rozanne G., Nancy Fierer, Barbara Sheard, Anne Stowers, Richard Jarvis, Robert Fierer, Deborah Drisdell, Ellen Beberman, David (?), Phyllis Sinclair, Stuart Lucks, Susan Brantley, Andy Nyblade, Scott Gillies, Scott Muller, Lora Couture, Nancy Bernstein, Patricia Lee, Cynthia Martino, Jonathan Gorgas, Rick Grossman, Brain Anderson, Todd Millen, Mark Miller, Barbara C., John Cogswell.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Brown called the hearing to order at 5:05 pm, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited and the Town Clerk called the roll noting a quorum was present.

#### Proposed Local Law 1 of 2026: BESS MORATORIUM

Supervisor Brown noted the purpose of this public hearing is for comments concerning a proposed local law establishing a twelve-month moratorium prohibiting the review and approval of applications and permits for “Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)” in the Town of Franklin

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Several residents spoke in support of a moratorium for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- a need for a planning board to address this type of proposed development and a comprehensive plan
- to protect the unique character of our town
- a need for time to investigate fully and to educate ourselves on both sides of BESS
- a need for a study of impacts to resources, safety and potential fire issues
- we are not able to rely solely on the APA

Several residents spoke in opposition of a moratorium for reasons such as, but not limited to:

- a need to focus efforts and resources on a comprehensive plan
- these systems are beneficial and can make us less reliant on energy imports
- we are not yet being considered a feasible location for one and the potential is very low for the Town of Franklin to be considered in the near future (due to high costs, low needs)
- these facilities are safe and have not been shown to be a burden to fire departments

Legislator Shoemaker advised the County’s position on this is to follow the lead of the Towns.

#### ADJOURNMENT

All those wishing to comment have been heard, there being no further public comments, Supervisor Brown adjourned the hearing at 5:31 pm. (Supervisor Brown, Council Member Brandt m/s/p) All aye.

Amy McCormick, Town Clerk