

### **A Quick History of the Cornish Energy Committee**

Mary Boyle received a call from Julia Dundorff of Cool Air-Cool Planet about a petition that was going around NH towns concerning climate change and setting up town Energy Committees. Mary took the petition around town getting many signatures so it could be voted on in the March 2007 Town Meeting. The exact wording as it appears in the Town Report is:

**Article 38:** To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our elected officials at the state and federal levels:

**Resolution:** To see if the Town will go on record in support of effective actions by the President and the Congress to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and the economy of New Hampshire and to the future well being of the people of Cornish.

These actions include:

- Establishment of a national program requiring reductions of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions while protecting the U.S. economy.
- Creation of a major national research initiative to foster rapid development of sustainable energy technologies thereby stimulating new jobs and investments.

In addition, the Town of Cornish encourages New Hampshire citizens to work for emission reductions within their communities, and we ask the Selectmen to consider the appointment of a voluntary energy committee to recommend local steps to save energy and reduce emissions. (Submitted by Petition)

This Article was passed unanimously and soon after Selectman, John Hammond, called Mary Boyle and asked her to form The Cornish Energy Committee and be chair of that committee. That is how it started. Nothing very formal and not much hands on by the Selectmen. Over the next several years other upper Valley communities formed Energy Committees. We see by 2010 our Committee attended the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission Upper Valley Energy Roundtable at the Hotel College in WRJ. That Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable continues to this day and is sponsored Vital Communities. The Cornish Energy Committee attends every year. During the early years we mostly gathered town energy data and worked on education.

The next very important point in our history was in 2013 when Nancy Mogielnicki of the Plainfield Energy Committee suggested the Plainfield Energy Committee collaborate with the Cornish Energy Committee to be part of the soon to be launched Pilot Solarize Upper Valley Program. Mary Boyle informed the Selectmen of the program and they submitted our application to be part of that program (See Cornish Solarize approval by town pdf attached). That is when our Committee really started working on major projects with Plainfield. It has been extremely important for this collaboration to continue as our towns are small but together we become big enough to participate in larger projects. We have had many great successes since then and have a great reputation with Vital Communities and other Energy Committees in the Upper Valley.