

CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

FEBRUARY 14, 2022, 7 pm

Town Office, 2nd floor meeting room, in-person & via Zoom.

ATTENDING: Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Nancy Wightman, Everett Cass, Fred Weld (half hour late due to work). Via Zoom: Alternates Bill Cable and Dan Poor; CEC friends Cindy Heath, Dick Gendron, Zack Hallock; and interested participant Colleen O'Neill.

JANUARY 10, 2022 MINUTES: Richard made a motion to approve, Joanna seconded, and a vote in the affirmative to approve the January 10, 2022 minutes.

INTRODUCTIONS & MEETING GUIDELINES. Masks and distancing strongly encouraged. All introduced themselves and stated why they were present. Reducing the Town's CO2 footprint was the top priority of most.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Nancy Wightman made the motion for Joanna Sharf to remain as Chair and Richard Thompson seconded. Voting was in the affirmative. Nancy Wightman made motion for Richard Thompson to be Vice-Chair and Joanna seconded. Voting was in the affirmative. Joanna Sharf made a motion for Nancy Wightman to be Secretary and Richard Thompson seconded. Voting was in the affirmative. With no contenders, Richard Thompson agreed to be both Vice-Chair and Treasurer after Joanna Sharf made the motion and Nancy Wightman seconded. Voting was in the affirmative.

BYLAWS: Motion made with no objections, to have Dan Poor work up a draft of Energy Committee Bylaws (adapted from the Conservation Commission bylaws). He will circulate his draft by email and present it for a vote at the March 14 meeting.

SOLARIZE 2022 CAMPAIGN. Cornish, Plainfield, Windsor and Hartland joined together to encourage our towns to consider residential solar. A Town mailing went out to all Cornish households to announce the Solarize Zoom Launch February 26. Six installers will be present to answer questions. This is the last year for the 26% tax credit unless it is renewed. There are no state grants available at this time. The solarize subcommittee will have a launch zoom rehearsal during the week of the 21st. The subcommittee will meet Monday the 21st at 6:30 pm to prepare for the Launch. Everett Cass requested participants be informed of the cost of dismantling and disposal of panels. End of life considerations will be noted.

POWERX ENERGY MONITORING DEVICE: This device monitors kWh usage in a building, alerting the resident of energy wastefulness. The plan is to install in Dan Poor's home which has a similar device, so as to compare and to test its usefulness. This is a pilot program that will test the effectiveness of this device and also educate. The first three months are free, with a \$20 monthly fee thereafter. When it is available and installed and after the three month free trial, Bill Cable and Dan Poor will make a presentation. The ultimate goal is to install in municipal buildings to monitor energy usage. There was a unanimous agreement to revisit this after the 3-month trial.

RECYCLING CENTER SOLAR ARRAY: Discussion of a possible solar array at the Cornish Recycling Center for municipal and residential customers in Liberty Utilities territory. 3-phase power is now present near the Recycling Center entrance which makes a large solar installation feasible. It is also a "brownfield site" eligible for a possible grant. Everett Cass noted that the hillside is a brush dump and probably not useful for an installation. Richard Thompson will explore the 6 plus acres, walk the boundary, and confirm sun orientations to land and building roofs. He and Everett Cass will approach abutters for their thoughts on this project, and will also ask abutters to help identify property boundaries. They will present their findings to the Selectboard before our April 11 meeting.

E-BIKE PROGRAM: This is the 3rd year that Cornish & Plainfield will be jointly organizing an E-Bike lending program. Bill Cable reported that we will have 4 electric bikes, one of which will be a folding

bike. The e-bikes will be available for residents to borrow from August 17 through August 30. The fee for each town to participate is \$150.

\$1,000 DONATION: Laird Klingler has generously offered to donate \$1,000 for Energy Committee use. There are four areas of use: Publicity for Solarize Launch and other educational projects, \$150 for E-Bike program, PowerX pilot program (\$240 for one year) if we decide to go ahead with it, and energy audits for low income households. Joanna Sharf reported that the Selectboard voted in favor of receiving the donation via unanticipated discretionary funds for Energy Committee purposes. Joanna Sharf will ask Heidi Jaarsma about how Laird Klingler should make out the check, and how receipts can be submitted for reimbursement.

NEXT MEETING. MARCH 14, 7-8:30 pm, in-person with Zoom option.

ADJOURNED. Motion made to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Nancy Wightman, Secretary