

CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
APRIL 11, 2022, 7 PM  
Town Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room, in-person & via Zoom.

ATTENDING: Joanna Sharf, Nancy Wightman, Everett Cass, Fred Weld, Bill Cable, John Berry.  
Via Zoom: Zack Hallock, Richard Gendron, Richard Thompson, Colleen O'Neill, Myron Kuhre.

1. MARCH 14, 2022 MINUTES: Nancy made a motion to approve, Everett seconded, with a vote in the affirmative to approve the March 14, 2022 minutes.
2. SOLARIZE 22 UPDATE: Joanna reported that 19 Cornish households signed up for site visits. We will follow up to support any residents who are considering signing a contract with an installer before the May 31 deadline.
3. CPCNH (Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire): This non-profit Coalition provides purchasing power for towns to lower electricity rates. Joanna met with Select Board March 21 to discuss signing the Joint Powers Agreement, the first non-binding step towards joining the Coalition. The Select Board said they would talk to Plainfield Select Board. Nancy suggested we include Zack's CPA (Community Power Aggregation) video and any from Plainfield on our website (Dan Poor). Everett made three points: 1) not worth it, 2) opt-out needs a special Town Meeting, 3) have to pay taxes to Hanover if they build an array. These points provided a worthy discussion on how the Community Power Coalition works.

Because we are in a deregulated market, we are allowed to choose a third party supplier. 1) The Coalition would have the purchasing power of participating towns to negotiate lower rates. 2) Opt-out refers to individuals who would rather not buy electricity from the Town. They can always opt-in again. Bill Cable gave the example that he would opt-out because he would lose the large credit he currently has from his past solar production. 3) In the Coalition, no town would be responsible for paying the costs of another town's projects. If our town decides to build a municipal solar array to help defray electric costs, we would need a town meeting to approve, and then depending on how it is financed, residents may or may not be required to help pay for the project through taxes, but that is only for solar arrays in the town of Cornish. Joanna will send out links to information about CPA from the CPCNH website to Everett and Fred, so they can obtain accurate information about Community Power Aggregation.
4. RECYCLING SOLAR ARRAY UPDATE: Richard Thompson and other committee members met with two installers, SameSun and Granite State Solar, at the Recycling Center. He also contacted ReVision and Catamount but they declined for the time being. The site visits determined that there was about 2000 sq.ft. on the roof for solar, and fairly good space for a ground mount array west of the buildings. We will wait to get the proposals from SameSun and Granite State Solar, and decide the next steps. Installers noted that the fire station roof would be a good place for solar. Now, with the rapid shutdown bringing it up to code to all solar installations, this idea should be revisited. We should meet with Fire Dept. and discuss.
5. HEAT PUMP ROUNDTABLE with Plainfield Energy Committee: Five heat pump installers will attend Roundtable on June 23, from 6:30-8pm at the Plainfield School. Matt Tilas from Mitsubishi will give an overview of how heat pumps work. GMES will bring a trailer with

working heat pumps, and ReVision may bring their “small house classroom” for a live demonstration. ARC Mechanical and Nate Bergeron are the other presenters. Nancy will send out a reminder June 1 to all. Should have a Heat Pump link to the website. Coordinate with Dan Poor.

6. **POWERX ENERGY MONITOR:** Bill reported there is no new information, as the device is dependent on production in Ukraine. Bill will follow up.
7. **WEATHERIZE CAMPAIGN:** Now that NHSaves is back on track we should continue with offering this yearly. Button Up program could also be offered. NHSaves offers substantial help in weatherizing leaky houses. Federal money is also coming. Nancy will research what financial support is available through NHSaves and Richard Thompson will research the Federal possibilities. Joanna suggested that we might consider using part of Laird’s donation to help people in need pay for energy audits.
8. **EARTH DAY, APRIL 22:** Nancy and Joanna discussed the idea of coming up with an impactful slogan that would make people think seriously about the climate crisis, and suggested that we urge people to write letters to the Valley News and our government representatives. Possible slogans include “Act for Earth” and “3 years to preserve a garden or guarantee a desert.”
9. **DR. YE TAO’S MIRROR TECHNOLOGY:** Dr. Tao is an MIT scientist who theorizes that mirrors that can help cool down Earth’s temperatures. His theory is based on the principle of the Albedo Effect which occurs when snow cover or white surfaces reflect back sunlight and prevent it from heating the Earth’s surface. Joanna would like to invite him to an in-person or virtual event to speak on this technology. Joanna made the motion to invite Dr. Ye Tao, Everett seconded and all approved.
10. **BY-LAWS:** There were only 10 minutes left in the meeting, so we didn’t have much time to work on the latest draft of the Bylaws. We did discuss the Committee’s name as it appears in the latest draft: The Cornish Energy and Electric Aggregation Committee. The Electric Aggregation Committee was formed as a first step in the process of exploring whether Cornish should join the Community Power Coalition. The Select Board did not want to form a separate committee, so on September 11, 2020 they made the Energy Committee the same as the Electric Aggregation Committee. Bill and Joanna felt that this joint name is too cumbersome and could be confusing as most people don’t know what Electric Aggregation is. In addition, the exploration of Community Power Aggregation is only a small portion of this Committee’s work, so why should it be included in the main name of the Committee? Joanna suggested that we keep the name “Cornish Energy Committee” and make the Electric Aggregation Committee a subcommittee. Everett made a motion, and Joanna seconded, that Joanna should ask the Select Board if they are willing to make this change in the name. Joanna also suggested that we remove Section 4.C. of Function and Duties, for the same reasons because CPA is not a permanent function of the Committee. Colleen O’Neill suggested we make the Electric Aggregation Committee a Task Force. Brief discussion on standing committees – Joanna mentioned that we could have an Education Committee, a Website Committee, and so forth. Discussion about email protocol: it’s ok to email the entire committee about meeting dates or forum dates, and it’s ok to share background material by email, but it’s important not to “Reply All” since we cannot discuss issues over email as a quorum. We will continue discussing the by-laws at next meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING: May 9, 7 pm at Town Office Conference Room.

12. ADJOURNED: Richard Thompson made a motion to adjourn, Joanna seconded, all in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

ADDENDUM: Joanna's notes on meeting with Select Board on March 21 & the Select Board's additional directives for the Bylaws.

Joanna's Notes: Richard Thompson and I met with the Selectboard on Monday, March 21, during their office hours.

1. Recycling Center Solar - the Selectboard is in favor of the Energy Committee exploring the possibility of installing a large solar array on this property, whether ground mount, rooftop or both. They are ok with us inviting solar installers to look at the property and provide recommendations and estimates. Richard has contacted David Webb of ReVision Energy and Devin Blacker of Granite State Solar. Revision is not willing to do a site visit, but can run some quick numbers remotely. Granite State is coming to look at the property on **Thursday April 7 at 2pm**. If you want to join the site visit, please let Richard Thompson know by email or phone (603-469-3304). Richard is also going to contact Catamount, Same Sun of VT & Solaflect to see if they're interested.

2. Community Power - We presented the Selectboard with a copy of the Joint Powers Agreement ("JPA," approx. 39 pages long). The JPA is an agreement to become prospective members of the Community Power Coalition of NH ("CPCNH"). The Selectboard would need to sign the JPA before we can take the next steps of drafting an Aggregation Plan and holding public hearings to inform that town about this program. They said they would like to talk with someone from another town that has joined CPCNH, to get a better idea of what this is all about. John Hammond said he would ask Eric Brann of Plainfield to come talk to the Selectboard and John will let us know when that will happen.

3. Bylaws - There was also some discussion about the Bylaws. Frank Parks suggested that we include in the Bylaws the fact that on Sept. 11, 2020, the Selectboard "voted to appoint the members of the Energy Committee to be the Cornish Energy and Electric Aggregation Committee." Basically, the Energy Committee also doubles as the Electric Aggregation Committee whose role is to obtain electric usage data from the utilities, draft an Aggregation Plan, hold public hearings and present the Plan for a vote at Town Meeting. Frank Parks also sent Joanna an email stating that the Selectboard had a few additional directives regarding the Bylaws and our operating procedures that they will share with us soon so as not to hinder our process.

Additional Directives from the Select Board for the Bylaws sent via email from Frank Parks dated March 30, 2022.

**DRAFT**  
SUPPLEMENTAL DIRECTIVES FOR ENERGY COMMITTEE  
TO BE INCLUDED IN OPERATING PROCEDURES

With regard to Potential Projects Involving: Alternative/Green Energy Generation Equipment and Battery Storage

**Purpose:** To provide comprehensive overview of all aspects of above to assist any/all parties ie-residents/taxpayers Town of Cornish NH, in making informed decisions with regard to potential implementation and use of same.

**Exploratory Phase:** Vetting of prospective vendors shall occur. Part of this vetting process to include disclosure by vendor of State/Country of origin of equipment, manufacture type/process. Life expectancy of equipment as well as decommission responsibilities and method of disposal. Designation of

maintenance responsibility.

An effort will be made, to the extent practicable, to procure material(s) and equipment from vendors/suppliers that exercise best practices in total manufacturing processes with regard to the environment and type/use of labor; with end cost not being the only consideration in the mix.

Documented comparative short and long term cost to existing power supply(if any) required.

A documented risk assessment matrix detailing pros and cons of any potential new system, preferably with supporting data from existing users in our geographic area. *In addition and if applicable*, a benefit comparison to a simple “hardening” of existing circumstance(s)-specifically items like, but not limited to, new insulation, better windows, roofing/siding upgrades etc. will be undertaken and shown as a footnote in the matrix.

All of the above would ultimately be made available in hard or electronic copy to the public to assist in making informed conclusions.

The next three phases –Bid process, Pre-construction and Construction likely wouldn't occur until after a vote by the town on major/minor projects (Dollar amount-?) Minor projects (Dollar amount?) *possibly* could be expedited in a different manner.

Existing protocol for major and minor would be developed further as needed.