

## **CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**October 4, 2022, 7pm to 8:05**

**Plainfield Philip Read Library**

**PRESENT:** Evan and Lee Oxenham for Plainfield Energy Committee. Joanna Sharf, Nancy Wightman and Everett Cass for Cornish Energy Committee. Via Zoom, Bill Cable and Richard Gendron.

**APPROVAL OF SEPT. 6 & 12 MINUTES:** Minutes approved by all.

**EV CHARGER FORUM:** Joanna will repeat the Vital Communities and Connect Cornish announcements. Evan will do Valley News calendar. Posters have been posted.

The format of the virtual forum will begin with Steve as moderator, 4 speakers (15 minutes each) and end with 1 hour of Q&A using Zoom's raised-hand feature for questions.

**Community Power Aggregation:** Cliff Below met with Select Board for about 45 minutes on Sept. 29. Joanna felt that Below provided a lot of helpful information to the Select Board. Part of the discussion covered liability. The Town will never have to pay for debts incurred by the Coalition, and will only be responsible for costs if it participates in a project (such as a solar or battery installation). The Town can write into its Aggregation Plan that it won't proceed unless rates are equal to or lower than the utility rates. Brief discussion on when to bring this to Town Meeting. Because the question of whether to move the Library will be a big discussion at Town Meeting 2023, Joanna wondered if it would be better to wait until 2024 for a Town vote on CPA, since that will be a large discussion itself. We also may not be able to draft an Aggregation Plan and hold public hearings in time before March 2023.

Joanna will follow up with Select Board to see if they will sign the Joint Powers Agreement.

**POWER X ENERGY MONITOR.** Dan, Bill and Joanna will install the energy monitoring device at Dan's house. Bill has downloaded the Power X app which he created with a new email address and password. It is needed for installation.

**FIREFIGHTERS TRAINING.** Oct 5 & 6, 6:30 to 8:30, at the 12A Fire Station in Plainfield.

Instructor Richard Birt will discuss how to handle solar panels and batteries during fires. Energy Committee members are invited to attend. Joanna and Everett will attend.

**RECYCLING CENTER SOLAR ARRAY.** Richard and Joanna are working through the obstacles: 20 feet right of way on driveway may not be sufficient if trees need to be cut; we may need to ask abutting landowners for permission. Joanna will follow up with Liberty engineer with a few questions. We need to explore grant possibilities. Richard Thompson found out that there are single-phase compactors, so the site will not need 3-phase power. We can fit about 25k of solar on the rooftops, which can generate approx. 27,000 kwh per year. Liberty Town Buildings used 7831 kW in 2021, so we will have excess to sell.

**FUTURE PROJECTS:** For larger, long-term projects, after some discussion it was agreed to focus on weatherizing Town buildings, starting with the Town Office and maybe the Town Garage. Nancy will look for the 2010 audit of the Town Office.

**BYLAWS:** Joanna proposed changing Paragraph 4 of Article VII: Finance to read:

The Town Treasurer shall have custody of the operating expense funds appropriated at the annual town meeting. The Committee shall submit requests to the **Town** Treasurer for ~~approval to pay out~~ **payment of moneys from** those funds.

Evan suggested that there should be a statement that the Energy Committee has the authority to expend the funds. Everett moved and Joanna seconded that we will include such a

statement, if it conforms to what other committees have in their bylaws regarding this issue.  
Vote was unanimous.

**OTHER:** Discussion on the Inflation Reduction Act funding and State rebate policy. It is smart to have a project ready to go so that when funding becomes available, the application can be submitted promptly.

**FURTHER MEETINGS:** We will meet the 2nd Monday of the month with Plainfield joining as needed.

**NEXT MEETING:** November 14, 7pm at the Town Office in person and via zoom.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.