

## **CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

September 12, 2022, 7 pm

Town Office Conference Room, in person & via Zoom

**ATTENDING:** Committee: Joanna Sharf, Nancy Wightman, Richard Thompson, Everett Cass, Bill Cable. Via Zoom: Dan Poor, Zack Hallock, Tony Newton. Friends: Dick Gendron, Ruth Bassette.

**APPROVAL OF JULY 11 MINUTES:** Richard motioned, Joanna seconded and all voted to approve July minutes.

**EV CHARGING FORUM, OCT. 27:** Joanna and Evan will work on text for publicity. Publicity will begin Sept. 19.

**240 VOLT OUTLETS BEHIND SCHOOL.** These outlets were installed by Dick Barrell for the Fair Assoc. They are NEMA 14-50 outlets, which is useful for EV chargers. Richard will discuss possibilities with the School and with Wayne of the Fair Assoc., then present to the School Board. The Fair controls and shuts off the outlet. The CEC has the charger removed from the Plainfield Store.

**COMMUNITY POWER AGGREGATION:** Joanna met with the Select Board on July 18 to discuss CPA, and they still have a lot of questions about it. They felt it would be helpful to talk with Plainfield Selectboard member, Eric Brann, and with Clifton Below of Lebanon. Joanna doesn't know if they actually have talked to Eric Brann. Joanna is still trying to nail down a meeting between Clifton Below and the Select Board.

**RECYCLING SOLAR ARRAY:** Liberty estimates a \$10 - \$30,000 single phase power line to the end of driveway. The difference in price is due to trenching or pole use. The Recycling Committee would like 3-phase power for a crusher. The estimated cost from Liberty to bring 208/120 volt 3-phase power to the Recycling Center would be \$50,000. Joanna will talk to Mike Monette about a grant. Joanna and Richard will contact Liberty to find out about right of way for cutting trees for overhead lines. Richard wants to know if there is a crusher that runs on 1-phase power.

**GROUP NET METERING:** Tony Newton has begun a community solar array in the Flat. The process with Liberty is time consuming and difficult, but completed. He has three customers. He is a good source of information on how to set up group net metering.

**BUDGET & TREASURER'S REPORT:** The committee Treasurer should probably provide quarterly treasurer's reports. Joanna would like the Committee to start thinking about requesting an annual budget from the Town.

**POWER-X:** Bill received 2 devices with the first 3 months free. He will coordinate with Dan and Joanna to set it up for comparison with Dan's existing home device. Bill recommended setting up a separate email address that Dan, Bill and Joanna would have the password for, to download the app, so all three could monitor the activity of the installed device at Dan's house.

**WINDOW DRESSER DIY EVENT:** October 14 -19 in Hanover. Interested persons can go to the Window Dresser website to volunteer and help build interior storm windows. They are taking applications now from residents to obtain window inserts for next year. Richard and Bill will volunteer, and learn how to make the window inserts, so that perhaps we could offer this service in our town. The info will be submitted to ConnectCornish.

**BYLAWS:** The Committee reviewed the final Articles of the Bylaws: Articles VII, VII, IX and X. Article VII: Finance included language proposed with the help of Heidi Jaarsma about donations and the annual report from the Town Treasurer. Richard noted that in paragraph 4, we need to specify that it is the “Town” Treasurer who would approve the payout of funds requested by the Committee. Joanna motioned, Richard seconded and all voted in favor to accept Article VII with clarifications. Joanna will check with Heidi about adding the word “Town” in front of Treasurer in paragraph 4. Article VIII: Conflict of Interest: Joanna added text at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph that specified that the Chairperson may act as spokesperson for the Committee but must adhere to the votes, goals and mission of the Committee. Joanna moved, Nancy seconded and all voted in favor to accept Article VIII with Joanna’s proposed changes. Article IX: Amendments had no changes. Joanna moved, Nancy seconded and all voted in favor to approve the Bylaws in their entirety. Article X: Approval now includes the date of Sept. 12, 2022 as the date the Committee voted to approve the Bylaws.

Joanna will convey the approved Bylaws to the Selectboard.

Dick Gendron asked about the “Supplemental Directives” from the Selectboard requiring the Committee to complete detailed steps for researching and presenting proposed renewable energy projects to the Town. He wondered if other Town entities, such as the Highway Dept. or Police or Fire Depts., have to adhere to the same steps in proposing large purchases. Joanna will ask the Selectboard if there is equal treatment of all town entities regarding this issue.

**NEXT MEETING:** We will combine with Plainfield and meet on Tues. October 4 at 7pm at the Plainfield Library in preparation for the EV charging event, and skip our usually scheduled meeting. Joanna expressed concern about having to meet twice monthly because of joint meetings with the Plainfield Energy Committee. Since the Plainfield Energy Committee has fewer projects in the works than Cornish, she proposed inviting the Plainfield Energy Committee to join the first part of our regular meetings to deal with joint issues. She will ask the Plainfield Energy Committee if they would agree to that.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30.