

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING
January 9, 2023, 7-8:30pm
Cornish Town Offices

PRESENT: In person: Joanna Sharf, Nancy Wightman, Fred Weld, Everet Cass. Bob Jordan, Mary Ann Thompson. Via Zoom: Bill Cable, Evan Oxenham, Steve Ladd, Ron Eberhardt, Ruth Bassette, Nick Cohen, and Bob Eldridge, independent weatherize contractor.

APPROVAL OF DEC. 12 MINUTES: Joanna moved, Nancy seconded and all approved.

APPOINTMENT OF ALTERNATE AS VOTING MEMBER: Joanna appointed Alternate Member Bill Cable as a voting member for this meeting due to the absence of Richard Thompson.

WEATHERIZE 2023, JANUARY 19 VIA ZOOM:

42 people have registered for the Launch Event so far, including presenters & contractors.

Bob Eldridge answered committee questions about weatherizing and NHSaves.

To make it easy for contractors to obtain tax cards for square footage, Joanna said that they can email the Town Secretary and request the tax cards.

Contractors can help with accessing NHSaves and can help homeowner if they don't qualify.

NHSaves.com access: When online, type in square footage age of house, and fuel needs for the year. This includes firewood (send pic of stove and woodpile), pellets, gas or oil heat. Best to choose a contractor and have them fill out the form.

Option for those without enough money: Utilities have a program where they can pay 100% for an old home with homeowner unable to pay. Air sealing at no charge.

If someone is a new homeowner, they can qualify with a three month window of fuel bills.

Financing: If a homeowner qualifies for NHSaves, they will get 75% of the cost, up to \$6000, paid by the utilities, and then can obtain financing through the utilities for the rest. It is at 0% interest and added to the monthly electric bill.

Federal Tax Credits: available for 30% of weatherization and up to \$1200. Available now.

If you don't qualify for NHSaves, weatherize your house a little bit at a time: Attic this year, basement next.

Email Bob Eldredge with any questions and he will answer.

Weatherize Launch Event Format: Steve is moderator. He will give a brief overview on critical dates and deadlines. Evan is host and will make presenters co-hosts so they will be able to share their screens.

Q&A will use the raised-hand option, not the chatbox. Joanna will contact contractors about format, to be there 20 minutes early, keep their talk to 5 minutes and send her a description of their services for the website. Bob Jordan will probably go to Steve's house for the Launch in order to give his presentation because he is still new to Zoom.

Publicity: Repeat all online postings. Nancy has already put up physical posters. Consider a visit to Recycling Center Saturday to get the word out.

Deadlines: February 10 to schedule audit and March 31 to sign a contract.

IRA FUNDING: If a homeowner qualifies for NHSaves, the utilities will pay up to \$6000 towards the cost, and then it is possible to use the IRA 30% tax credit up to \$1,200 to help pay for the remainder of the cost.

IRA has two separate programs based on median income in our area. Weatherizing and Electrification. Rebates will give up to \$14,000 but funds might not be available til end of 2023 or early 2024.

Bob Eldredge suggests we don't talk about these IRA rebates because they are not available now and there is so much that is uncertain regarding them.

WEATHERIZE TOWN BUILDINGS: NHSaves has a program for municipalities. GDS Associates from Manchester and Resilient Building Group from Concord are 2 companies that do weatherizing work on municipal buildings. Andrew Hatch from Lebanon is also a good resource. Unable to discuss this topic further due to time restrictions. Hold over until next meeting.

E-BIKES: Bill and Ruth are meeting with Windsor and Plainfield January 24 to start discussing the Upper Valley E-bike Lending Program. It will cost \$300 for two towns and will probably start in August of this year.

OTHER: Everett Cass announced that he has introduced a zoning plan to the Planning Board that will require commercial solar enterprises to provide a bond to cover decommissioning of commercial solar installations. There will be a public hearing on this before Town Meeting. Everett notify Joanna of hearing date(s).

TABLED: MEER, Window Dressers, further discussion of weatherizing town buildings, and Portfolio Manager were tabled due to lack of time.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 13, at 7 pm at the Town Offices.