

**CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**March 27, 2023, 7-8:30pm**  
**Cornish Town Office**

**PRESENT:** in person: Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Nancy Wightman, Everett Cass, Bob Jordon, Fred Weld, Bill Cable. Via Zoom: Ruth Bassette, Evan Oxenham, Steve Ladd, Tony Newton, Dick Gendron and Dan Poor.

**APPROVAL OF FEB. 13 MINUTES:** Richard made the motion to approve, Everett seconded and all approved.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** According to our bylaws, officers need to be elected every year. We will do this at the April meeting. Richard Thompson was approved by the Selectboard for another 3-year term. He got sworn in this evening.

**WEATHERIZE 2023 UPDATE:** Cornish: 10 homes are currently being audited. Plainfield: 3 homes are scheduled for audits. Three of the six participating contractors got all the requests for audits: Bob Eldredge (ABC Energy Savings), Ted Stiles (Yankee Thermal Imaging) & Martin Bean (Earthshare). Bob Tortorice (Building Alternatives) will be doing one audit in Plainfield. Joanna contacted William Castner of Quality Insulation of Meredith & Bob Tortorice of Building Alternatives to apologize for lack of work generated for them by this campaign, but they were not upset and are willing to work with us again on future campaigns.

**UPPER VALLEY ENERGY FAIR:** Saturday, April 1, from 11am-3pm at Listen Center in WRJ. Nancy, Joanna and Bill may attend.

**EDUCATIONAL FORUMS, PLAN for 2023:**

1. **May or June:** Impact of Climate Change on NH. The recent highly concerning IPCC Climate Report is the catalyst for this topic. UNH Professor Cameron Wake would be an excellent speaker. Evan will contact him and find out available dates.
2. **August:** E-Bikes along with battery powered lawn & tool appliance demo and display to generate more interest. Richard Thompson suggested Joe's Equipment might be willing to bring items. Richard will also follow up with COVER to see if they are willing to do a demo on how custom window inserts work (as an additional part of this demo day).
3. **October:** Batteries: cost, technology, use, and Brand comparison. Tony offered to do the research & presentation. Terry Donoghue (Plainfield) and Kim Quirk of Revision may be a resource.
4. **Other Ideas:** Also considered presentation on IRA Incentives (could be a Did You Know posting); Window Dressers (Richard will follow up); Transactive Energy (using EV's to power grid; e.g. NHEC pilot program; could be a Did You Know posting with link to recording); Community Power Coalition success (better to wait for next year).

**WEATHERIZING TOWN BUILDINGS:** The Selectboard has approved an Eversource Municipal program Energy Audit of the Town Offices. Margaret Dillon will complete a whole building performance assessment and energy audit this week. Eversource will pay 100% of audit and 50% of work.

NHEC did not feel the Highway Garage was worth auditing and/or weatherizing as the building is too open due to garage doors & vehicle venting. Gas-powered Infrared heaters were discussed as a more efficient heating system for garages since they heat objects rather than air. It would be great to get rid of the used motor oil heating system that's currently in place. Bob noted Fire Stations have the same issue with heat loss, and that Lebanon has good results using Infrared heaters for their three Fire Stations. Joanna will ask NHEC about a Town Hall audit. Joanna asked if anyone was willing to check

in with Liberty for a Rte. 120 Fire Station audit, but no one offered.

**PORTFOLIO MANAGER:** Nancy has diligently recorded the Town's energy use every year. She has compiled this data from 2010 through 2022 on a spreadsheet in Google Drive. Joanna would like to use the Portfolio Manage software as a visual way to depict the town's energy usage. Bill will look into getting this started, and Joanna will help and will ask Zack if he can also work on this.

**OTHER ISSUES:** Tony brought up a volunteer organization in Hillsborough called Harei (Harei.org). This group organizes community-assisted DIY solar installations for low income homeowners (Solar Raisings). He would like to see it available in the Upper Valley.

**NEXT MEETING:** April 10, 7 pm at Town Office. This April meeting will include election of officers to the Energy Committee. Also, follow up on the Hillsborough Solar Raisers.

**ADDENDUM:**

Joanna met with the Selectboard on March 6. Below is a report of that meeting from her March 8 email to Energy Committee Members:

1. Reappointment of Richard Thompson. The Selectboard approved Richard Thompson for a 3 year term. Richard can come in any time to get sworn in. They confirmed that our term of membership should coincide with Town Meeting.
2. Bylaws. They have read our draft bylaws and have only a few minor word changes to recommend. They will share those with me soon.
3. Weatherizing Town Buildings. They are in favor of starting the process to find out the cost of getting energy audits and then weatherizing the Town Offices and the Town Garage. I will contact Eversource & NHEC to find out what they offer for municipal buildings. The work that is being done on the Town Hall is mainly fixing trim and the doors and such. Same with the Town Garage. The Town Offices had some work done by Leo Maslan and Lyle Parry in the basement to reinforce the structure and prevent moisture coming in -- laid down plastic and some insulation.
4. Recycling Center. I briefed them on what we learned from the 2 solar installers and from Liberty Utilities about bringing power to the Recycling Center. They said that it would probably be difficult to get easements to clear trees in order to install the 3 poles that Liberty said would be needed. They suggested instead that we consider building a small off-grid solar array to power a few lights and outlets at the Recycling Center, and use that as an educational tool for residents. Worth considering.