

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

May 8, 2023, 7 - 8:30 pm

Cornish Town Offices

PRESENT: in person: Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Nancy Wightman, Everett Cass, Fred Weld, Bill Cable, Bob Jordan (Plainfield), Tom Prisby (Windsor). Via Zoom: Steve Ladd, Evan Oxenham, Zack Hallock, Tony Newton, Nick Cohen, Bill Palmer, Ruth Bassette, Craig ?. Guest Speaker: Steve Ettelson, Hollis Energy Committee and member of HAREI.org in Hillsborough County, NH.

APPROVAL OF APRIL MINUTES: Richard made the motion, Nancy seconded and all approved.

STEVE ETTELSON: Steve Ettelson is a member of HAREI, a Hillsborough County Volunteer Organization helping homeowners to solarize their homes. This is a non-profit organization of volunteers with the focus on renewable energy for homeowners. They have installed over 100 solar rooftop and ground mounted solar arrays with the help of homeowners (who just have to pay for materials) and other volunteers.

- Homeowners become members of the organization and are expected to pay forward the help they get and volunteer with future Solar Raisings.
- They can save up to 50 to 60% as the group has set up discounts with distributors.
- Non-paid volunteers are protected from liability under the 508:17 statute. (There is also an RSA 292)
- The organization is now a 501(c)(3) charitable organization which will help in approaching corporations for funds and to be tax deductible.
- There are three phases to a solar raising: A plan, the raising and then the completion paperwork.
- Must have an electrician to finish the last 10% of the electrical connections.

To Consider: can our committees join HAREI and work under their 501(c)(3) non-profit status? Joanna and Tony will follow up with Steve Ettelson about this. Steve Ettelson is also interested in forming a coalition of NH Energy Committees that meet or communicate periodically to share knowledge and help each other avoid having to re-invent the wheel on similar projects.

FORUMS:

- The Effect of Climate Change in NH: Evan contacted Professor at UNH, who was interested but couldn't commit immediately. Evan will follow up and work towards a June event.
- E-Bike & Electric Lawn Equipment Event set for Aug. 26 at the Cornish Town Hall, which Nancy has reserved. Publicity can include the significant amount of CO2 emitted by gas powered lawn equipment. Bill will begin a list in late June for names of electric tool owners. \$150 E-bike participation fee is due from both committees to Vital Communities. (For Cornish, money will come from the Laird Klingler Fund.) Bill will contact Vital Communities for bill details and email info to Treasurer Richard and to the Plainfield Committee.

- Batteries: Tony will give an overview of brands, inverters and costs. Joanna contacted Bill Bender of Solaflect, but he was not willing to do a presentation. Solaflect has had a bad experience with the Sonnen home battery system (operating problems and poor communication with Sonnen). Cameron Berube is no longer working with Catamount, but his replacement is very interested in doing a talk about their battery installations. Joanna will contact ReVision and possibly homeowner Jeff Plant (off-grid). Richard will contact Brian Callnan of NHEC to see if he will talk about using EV's as battery backup and bidirectional EV to grid power exchange. Bill Palmer will ask Cobb Hill for info on their use of EV's as batteries.

COMMUNITY POWER: Joanna and Richard met with Selectboard on Monday, May 1. Joanna asked if they had read the Valley News opinion article that she had sent to them and if they would reconsider their decision against moving forward on the path to Community Power. They are not ready to commit at this time. Jason Bourne did not know about the article because he was absent on the day Joanna's email was received. He said he wanted to read it. The Selectboard said they would have another discussion about it.

Bob Jordan gave a report on Plainfield's experience with enrollment. 600 customers who were getting their power from either Liberty or Eversource have been automatically enrolled in PCP. Only 17 customers opted out and 2 other customers opted in. All enrollees chose a plan with 33% renewable energy or better. This is over a 97% enrollment rate. Customers with NHEC and those with Net Metering or Time Of Use agreements were not automatically enrolled. The last minute problem of enrolling Eversource customers was averted. The enrollment rate of 97% is well above the average of 80% for other states outside NH that have implemented community power.

Bill Palmer made the point that when the Selectboard doesn't allow the matter to be brought before Town Meeting for a vote, they are not giving residents the chance to make their own choice. If Community Power gets adopted, and individuals don't want it, they can always opt out.

Joanna asked that the Committee review her draft of a notice that she would like to post in Connect Cornish that speaks about the Valley News article and urges action on Community Power.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER: Bill entered data for the Town Offices into Portfolio Manager. Zack will work on entering the rest of the town energy use, and will make the final product in the form of graphs that can be displayed on our website for all to view.

WEATHERIZING TOWN BUILDINGS: NHEC has some funding available to weatherize town buildings in their territory if the end result is an effective reduction in energy use. Joanna will ask Margaret Dillon to do an initial review of the Cornish Town Hall to give us an idea if it is worth pursuing. Margaret Dillon already did a thorough energy audit of the Town Offices, and is working on her report, which won't be ready until the summer.

RECYCLING CENTER SOLAR PLAN: Tony designed a small off grid solar system for the Recycling Center that includes 4 solar panels totalling 1.5 kw, a 3000 watt Eco-worthy inverter

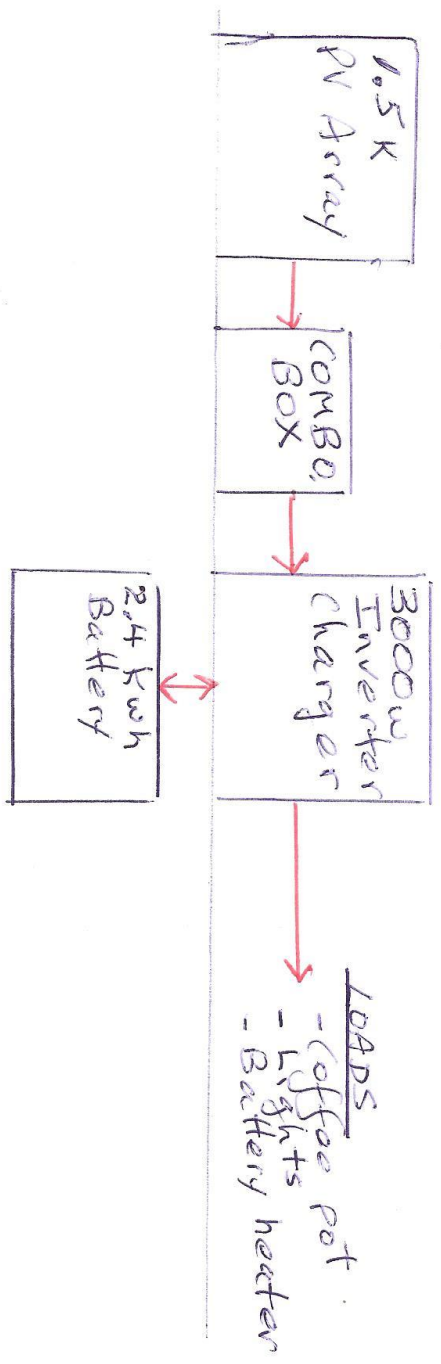
charger, and two 12 volt 100 amp hour batteries. A copy of the plan is included at the end of these minutes. This should power a few outlets for items like a coffee pot and an emergency phone, and lights. The cost for materials will be around \$3300. The idea is that this will be a DIY project, with all labor being volunteered. Joanna and Richard worked quickly to submit a grant application to the Tasker Bridges Fund by the May 5 deadline. Selectboard is OK with the project and for applying for this grant.

EV CHARGERS: There are six, 240 volt outlets behind the school, put in by the Fair to be used by RV's for the Fair only one weekend per year. Richard ascertained with NHEC that using some of the outlets for EV charging during the rest of the year would qualify for reduced monthly meter charge. Everett said he was concerned about liability to the town if a vehicle got damaged, and also was concerned about allowing the general public so near the school. Fair also needs to OK this. Other issues, if using a credit card to pay, a phone line needs to be connected. A charger at the store was discussed, but the slow nature of charging is a concern.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 12, 7pm at the Town Offices.

Solar Design for Cornish Recycling ctr.
 off-grid

4/29/23



Materials / costs

- 4 BlueSun Solar Panels (35V) * \$1100
 - 2 12v 100ah Battery 750
 - 1 Eco-worthy Inverter-Charger 475
 - cables/combiner Box 250
 - Roof Mount Hardware 200
- \$2725

* Two pairs (70V) in parallel

Prepared by: Tony Newton
 For: Cornish Energy Committee