

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING-draft

November 13, 2023, 7-8:30pm

Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom

PRESENT: in person: CEC members Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Everett Cass, Bill Cable, Nancy Wightman, and guest Jeff Plant. Via Zoom: PEC members Evan Oxenham, Ron Eberhardt, Bob Jordan. Also, Dan Poor (CEC), Tony Newton, Dick Gendron, Doug Heaton, Ruth Bassette, Bill Palmer, Bill Schmidt.

Joanna appointed Bill Cable as a voting member.

APPROVAL OF OCT. 8 MINUTES: Richard moved, Nancy seconded and all approved the Oct. 8 minutes.

BATTERY FORUM DEBRIEF: 202 registered of which 88 were from Cornish and Plainfield. 95 stayed for the presentation. During Q&A, most questions were about bidirectional vehicles. It was a worthwhile forum and it seems like a good idea to be prepared to automatically pay the extra \$50 for extra participants over 100 in the future. Evan said it is not hard to do, so we can wait until we see the registration numbers get close to 100.

GROUND SOURCED HEAT PUMPS as a possible EDUCATIONAL FORUM. 5 companies have been contacted and have shown an interest in presenting. Joanna questioned whether it was worth doing a forum on this topic because the cost of these systems might be prohibitive for residents. We will send out an email to the companies and ask for a short educational session via Zoom just for committee members during one of our regular meetings. Bob Jordan's brother has a geothermal system installed at his house in Plainfield. Bob will invite him to our Dec. meeting and suggested we might want to do a site visit in person. Nancy will draft a letter to the companies.

Other possible forums: Richard suggested we do a forum on IRA rebates as soon as we learn the final details. Joanna should contact NH DOE to ask if already-installed heat pumps will be eligible for IRA rebates. Joanna reminded people that federal tax credits are available right now for most appliances that are energy efficient and powered by electricity.

[Note: we mentioned in a previous meeting that we should do a "Button-Up" Workshop.]

NEW MEMBERS FOR COMMITTEE: Bill Schmidt attended the meeting via Zoom and expressed interest in joining the Committee. He recently retired and has resided in Cornish for 3 years. He has felt welcome in Cornish and would like to give back to the community. His background is in healthcare non-profit work. Other possible members are: Jeff Plant, a long-time resident of Cornish, lives off-grid, has volunteered years ago at the Recycling Center and is a N2N member. Myron Kuhre, born and raised member of the community, retired. Caroline Storrs, long-time member of Cornish and good at grant writing. All are interested and involved with energy issues.

TOUR OF OFF-GRID SOLAR SYSTEM AT RECYCLING TOUR FOR SELECTBOARD AND FIRE DEPT: Joanna and Tony will be at the Recycling Center November 18, 3pm to speak about the solar array and answer questions. Everett went downstairs to remind the Select Board about the tour. Nancy will inform Chief Boutillier.

ENERGY AUDIT OF TOWN OFFICES: Report by energy auditor Margaret Dillon gives possible solutions to this building's challenges: disintegrating brick walls and large windows. Loss of heat is due to brick construction and absence of insulation. Suggestions to tighten up the building include: more efficient programmable digital thermostats - \$300; air sealing doors, etc.- \$1000; additional attic insulation - \$6000; window inserts - \$7000, and a retrofit of outside walls with foam board, air gap and a new siding - \$90,000. Richard and Joanna will meet with Select Board during their office hours on November 20 to discuss the report.

LARGE SOLAR ARRAY ON FAIRGROUNDS. Very briefly discussed.
Portfolio management and DYK tabled due to lack of time.

15 minutes for discussion used to discuss candidates for the Energy Committee.

A full member is needed now to fill Fred Weld's place. Joanna made a motion to recommend to the Selectboard that Bill Schmidt or Myron Kuhre be appointed as a full member. Joanna moved, Richard seconded. All approved.

Alternates: Joanna proposed that Jeff Plant be recommended as an alternate for the Selectboard to appoint. Joanna moved and Bill seconded. All approved.

Joanna moved that Caroline Storrs be recommended to the Selectboard to be appointed as an alternate. Richard seconded. 4 approved and 1 abstained.

It was discussed that we have 3 alternates, as our draft Bylaws state. Whoever doesn't get appointed as a full member could be appointed as an alternate. Nancy will probably want to step down in March. Full members in the future could be drawn from our alternate members. Richard and Joanna will meet with the Select Board on Nov. 20 to discuss having three alternates, our recommendations for new members, and to discuss the energy audit.

NEXT MEETING: Richard will be away for our next meeting on December 11 at 7pm in the Town Offices. Discussion about moving the next meeting to the following Monday on December 18 so that he can attend. We would be down to 3 members if he doesn't attend.