

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 9, 2023, 7 to 8pm
Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom

PRESENT: in person: Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Everett Cass, Bill Cable, Nancy Wightman. Bob Jordon (PEC). Via Zoom: Evan Oxenham, Tony Newton, Nick Cohen, Richard Gendron.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nancy moved, Richard seconded, all approved the September 18 minutes.

BATTERY FORUM: 94 have registered so far for the November 8 Battery Zoom Forum. Evan will pay the \$50 fee for a one-time Zoom upgrade to allow more than 100 registrants. Cornish and Plainfield will split the costs. Publicity is already on track, posters are up in both Plainfield and Cornish. Joanna will ask speakers to join in at 6:30pm to make sure all is working correctly for speakers' slides and other technological issues. Tony will update his google spreadsheet with info on batteries and Evan will send it out to registered persons one week in advance of Forum. Evan will manage the Forum and participants will use the "Raise Hand" feature of Zoom to ask questions during the Q&A. Steve Ladd will moderate.

FUTURE FORUMS: "Window Dressers" was discussed as a possible future project – hand-made window inserts. Richard and Bill attended another Window Dresser workshop and felt the inserts were too fragile. It would not be worth it to go through all that work and expense only to have the window inserts get punctured easily. Bill suggested it would be better to make window inserts out of plexiglass with rubber weather-stripping. Consensus was against a Window Dresser workshop.

Ground Source Heat Pumps will be a forum for 2024 if there are businesses willing to join in a Zoom Forum. Evan and Nancy will look for sources. A Button-Up workshop would also be a good idea for 2024.

NEW ENERGY COMMITTEE MEMBER: The Committee needs to recommend a new committee member to replace Fred Weld who resigned last month. Joanna suggested Caroline Storrs would be an excellent candidate. She is very interested in joining the Committee, and would be able to attend 10 meetings per year in person and the remaining 2 meetings (Jan. and Feb.) via Zoom. She is great at coming up with ideas, good at grant writing, willing to do extra work outside meetings, and is good at working together with a group. Joanna proposed that the Committee vote to recommend Caroline Storrs to the Select Board. Everett felt the committee didn't need to vote. Joanna appointed Bill as a voting member since we were down one member, and the vote to recommend Caroline Storrs was 4 in favor, 1 against. Everett suggested Troy Simino and Frank Parks.

RAFFLE OF EV CHARGER: The raffle at the Lebanon EV Expo on Saturday Sept. 30 brought in \$225, of which \$110 was given to the Expo per our agreement, and \$115 went to the Cornish Energy Committee. Money will help with additional costs for the Recycling Center solar system.

RECYCLING CENTER OFF-GRID SYSTEM: Two guided tours were given in October to interested residents. It was suggested that another be offered for the Selectboard and Fire Department. Date would be November 18 or 19. Richard discussed monitoring the thermometer in battery box. Joanna will follow up on a news report.

TOWN OFFICES ENERGY AUDIT REPORT: The Energy Audit Report for the Town Offices was recently completed by Margaret Dillon and paid for by Eversource. Joanna emailed a copy of the report to the Select Board. Joanna will email a copy of the report to Staples to get photocopied so that the Committee can have a hard copy on record. Nancy will pick up the photocopied report from Staples.

DID YOU KNOW ARTICLE: Battery info sent to ConnectCornish.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER AND 15 MIN DISCUSSION: Tabled so that Chair could report to Selectboard about recommended new member, Recycling Center tour, and request for money for Zoom upgrade. Joanna, Nancy and Richard met with the Selectboard at 8pm and discussed the recommendation of Caroline Storrs as a new member to replace Fred Weld. Also discussed giving tour at Recycling Center for Select Board and Fire Dept. Saturday Nov. 18 around 3pm seemed like a good possibility for the Select Board.

NEXT MEETING: November 13, from 7-8:30pm at Town Offices.