

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

December 18, 2023, 7 - 8:30 pm
Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom

PRESENT: in person, CEC members Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Everett Cass, Nancy Wightman, and PEC Bob Jordan.

Via Zoom: Bill Cable CEC. PEC members Evan Oxenham, Ron Eberhardt, Nick Cohen. Also on Zoom: Bill Schmidt, Dick Gendron, Tony Newton.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nancy made a motion to accept November 13, 2023 minutes, seconded by Richard and all approved.

GROUND SOURCED HEAT PUMP: Nancy watched a webinar from Sustainable Woodstock on community ground sourced heat pump networks (systems which can be shared among several buildings) and found it inspiring. She will share it to the rest of us. Point of clarification: Evan informed us that geothermal heat refers to volcanic hot spots. Ground sourced HPs refer to pipes laid/drilled under frost line or in water.

- Evan will contact Eric Peterson, General Manager for K.E. Bergeron Mechanical Systems as requested by Jay Gaudry, office administrator. Evan will ask him to join a zoom meeting. (Nancy sent copy of email to Evan, 12/19).
- Bob Jordan's brother Don has lived with ground sourced hp for many years. We will visit with him January 20 after 11 am if Don is available. Joanna will invite one or two ground sourced heat pump contractors to our January 8 meeting. Paul Biebel was the builder for Don Jordan's system, so he may be another contractor we could talk to.
- KUA appears to be installing a Ground Sourced HP system and could be a possible resource.

BUTTON UP PROGRAM: Joanna suggested putting on a Button Up workshop for one of our 2024 educational forums. Point of clarification: a button up workshop is a one time presentation on building energy science, which explains the best way to seal and insulate a home. A weatherize campaign is based on those same principles but works with NHSaves contractors to support homeowners in getting their houses insulated. We will plan for an April presentation. Joanna will contact presenters.

COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NH: Evan gave an update of progress for 2023.

- Rates have been consistently lower than utilities and will be again in 2024 despite lower gas prices for utilities.
- 16 CPCNH member towns are working together to supply power to their towns for a total of 80,000 households and businesses.
- 50 towns are now members of CPCNH and of those, 29 are expected to launch to provide power to their ratepayers in 2024, to increase the total number of households and businesses served by CPCNH to 122,000.

- The total population of the 50 towns is approximately 30% of the population of New Hampshire.
- The Coalition has built a solid reserve that is held for unexpected price “shocks” or to be used for discretionary town projects.
- Selectboard discussed this with Plainfield’s Selectman Eric Brann. No report.

NEW CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MEMBERS: No action from the Selectboard yet on the recommendations for new members that the Committee presented to the Selectboard in October and November.

RECYCLING CENTER SOLAR ARRAY: Inside temps recorded to monitor battery. All is working well. Selectmen were given a tour.

SOLAR POWERED EV CHARGER: SolaFlect has a mobile off-grid solar powered EV charger which can be leased for \$4000 per year. Joanna suggested it would be good to have at least one of these in town. Discussion on how it would be used, and whether it was useful for residents. It is intended for people who can plug in their vehicles for at least several hours during the day – it only works during daylight. Nancy suggested this could be set up as a cooperative for those with EVs. It might also be good to set one up at the Cornish Fair.

TOWN OFFICES ENERGY REPORT: Joanna wrote to Eversource about possible financial help with making needed changes. No response yet. The cheapest improvement would be to use programmable thermostats. Richard spoke to Selectboard and they will purchase 4 programmable thermostats. Joanna will follow up with Eversource again and find out about funding for the other energy saving measures. One question for Margaret Dillon, the energy auditor, is whether the glazing price for the window inserts is for Low-E.

LARGE FAIRGROUND SOLAR ARRAY, PORTFOLIO MANAGER & DYK ITEMS TABLED.

15 MINUTE DISCUSSION. Inflation Reduction Act rebates will be coming into effect for 2024. Committee should have a presentation on this when the details become clear. Wind power was discussed and would also be an interesting forum idea. Commercial or Residential. Bill Cable has some experience with residential wind and feels it is high maintenance and not cost effective. KUA has one. Bill will talk to Doug Plummer of KUA to try to get information on their small wind turbine and report back. Commercial wind power is very effective and takes up much less land space than solar. Nancy suggested we invite people from Lempster NH or Plymouth NH to do a presentation on their wind power systems.

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2024, 7 pm at the Town Offices and via Zoom.