

## CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

July 10, 2023, 7 - 8:30pm

Cornish Town Offices & via Zoom

**PRESENT:** In person: Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Nancy Wightman, Everett Cass, Fred Weld, Bill Cable. Via Zoom: Evan Oxenham, Nick Cohen PEC, Zack Hallack, Ruth Bassette, Cindy Heath.

**1. APPROVAL OF JUNE MINUTES:** Fred requested that in addition to keeping track of solar installations in town, we should also keep track of battery installations as well. Nancy moved that minutes be approved with corrected version. All agreed.

### **2. NEXT EDUCATIONAL FORUMS:**

#### **a. The effect of Climate Change in NH.**

Evan reported that the UNH Professor Cameron Wake is not able to present due to his overloaded schedule. So this forum has been tabled.

#### **b. Electric Lawn Equipment & E-Bike Showcase.**

August 26, 10am-4pm at the Town Hall. Publicity Poster: Bill showed the committee a poster he and Shideko had designed. Discussion about text and color. Title will be: "Battery Powered Yard Equipment - A Showcase, Plus E-Bike Demonstrations & Rides." Joanna suggested using the standard Energy Committee educational poster background (blue wave with red letters) for sharper image. Bill said he would try that. The poster will be distributed at the end of July. Steve Ladd will hopefully send out an email to all listservs.

Bill attended the Woodstock Expo and spoke to some of the commercial representatives there. He reported that he is trying to get an EGO representative to display their battery powered tools at this event. Richard suggested we try to get Joe's Equipment to attend as well. They sell Stihl electric equipment.

Bill and PEC members will locate homeowners to contribute equipment for this event by the first week in August.

Joanna noted that gas-powered lawn equipment causes a surprising amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions relative to the small size of the equipment. Evan found an online EPA report showing that gas-powered lawn equipment contributes 4 to 5% of total GHG emissions in the U.S.

#### **c. Plastic Alternatives:**

Reducing plastic at its source is the more efficient way to eliminate plastic. Finding alternatives will help save money, create less pollution and reduce GHG emissions as plastic is produced with fossil fuels. Cindy Heath would help to organize this. Discussion: Everett questioned whether this topic is really under the purview of the Energy Committee. Cindy and Joanna will talk about it.

**3. BATTERY FORUM.** Joanna was able to finally reach Brian Callnan of NHEC and new CEO of CPCNH. He is willing to speak about EV to grid power (transactive energy) and bidirectional EV power. Discussion about date. Suggested change of date to Wednesday, Nov. 1 or Thursday, Nov. 2 to accommodate Brian Callnan and other committee members. Tony Newton, Kim Quirk of ReVision, Chris Sparadeo of Catamount will also present. Joanna will contact all and firm up date. Fred requested that safety procedures for batteries be addressed at this forum.

**4. EV CHARGER AT PLAINFIELD STORE:** Bill is communicating with owner who is less interested due to slow speed of a Level II charger. Level II, 6000 Watts, 30 amps.

**5. RECYCLING CENTER SOLAR ARRAY:** Tony Newton, Bill and Richard put up the 2 480 watt solar panels on the roof. Joanna and Tony are working on batteries and electrical connections. It will produce about 20 amps. Foard Panel in West Chesterfield, NH (near Keene), donated insulated foam panels for box that Richard will build to house the inverter and the batteries.

**6. COMMUNITY POWER.** The Selectboard needs more time to consider Community Power. Jason Bourne is researching information about it, and is talking to Henry Herndon of CPCNH. So, the Committee will put a hold on posting anything about Community Power in Connect Cornish, and will check back with the Selectboard in a month or so. The Selectboard asked for comparative information about other 3<sup>rd</sup> party electricity suppliers. Joanna will do this.

**7. PORTFOLIO MANAGER:** Zack almost done with data input and graphs. He will send it to Joanna when ready.

**8. WEATHERIZE TOWN BUILDINGS:** Joanna didn't have a chance to contact Shakes to Shingles to see if they can do a free energy audit of the Town Hall. Discussion about whether the Town Hall is worthy of weatherizing. Maybe the Fire/Police Station would be a good candidate for weatherizing.

**9. KEEPING TRACK OF SOLAR INSTALLATIONS:** We will include battery installations and deliver a copy of locations to the Fire Dept. This will be done in January.

**10. GENERAL ENERGY ISSUES DISCUSSION:** Fred requested a conversation about the pros and cons of various kinds of renewable energy. Joanna said that she favors solar, wind and small hydro, while large hydro damages the ecosystem by flooding large areas, and forces native residents to relocate. Biomass is also problematic because burning it emits CO<sub>2</sub>. Geothermal seems ok. Richard discussed the benefits of tidal energy, which is already working in the Bay of Fundy in Maine, where the largest tidal changes occur. Solar is the most practical for residential homes.

Regarding plastics, Nick reported that the European Union has a "Circular Economy Action Plan" that by 2050 will make all materials 100% recyclable. It will be a closed loop where everything is re-used and nothing is sent to trash. He recommended the book: "This Changes Everything" by Naomi Klein.

**11. NEXT MEETING:** Monday, August 14 from 7-8:30pm at the Town Offices and via Zoom.