

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEES MINUTES

August 14, 2023, 7-8:30pm

Cornish Town Offices

PRESENT: In person: Joanna Sharf, Bill Cable, Everett Cass, Fred Weld, Nancy Wightman. Via Zoom: Evan Oxenham, Dan Poor. Interested parties: Tony Newton, Lorraine Sutphin, Caroline Storrs, Doug Cogan (Solaflect).

Joanna appointed Bill as full member as Richard was absent. All approved.

APPROVAL OF JULY MINUTES: Nancy moved and Bill seconded. All approved.

EDUCATIONAL FORUMS:

- A) Electric Lawn Equipment & E-Bikes Expo Showcase. August 26, 10am-2pm at Town Hall. Bill will write a list of equipment available for display and send to Connect Cornish. Joanna will write up a description of Expo and send to Steve to post. To Bring: Nancy and Bill will bring a sign-up sheet, cans of water, bacon to cook on induction hotplate. Bill is hoping to find someone who owns a portable battery to display at the expo. Nancy will meet Bill at the Town Hall at 8 am. Nancy, Doug Miller, Evan, Dan and Shideko will come to help.
- B) Batteries: Early November [TBD] from 7-8:30pm via Zoom. Kim Quirk of ReVision, Chris Sparadeo of Catamount, Brian Callnan of NHEC & CPCNH, and Tony Newton will speak 10 minutes each with remaining time for Q&A. Joanna will work on a publicity blurb. Evan will set up the Zoom meeting with required pre-registration, and will use registration contacts to send out info (including Tony's spreadsheet) before event. He will resend again with a reminder the day before. The event will be recorded.
- C) Other Forums? Geothermal suggested.

PLAINFIELD STORE OR SCHOOL EV CHARGER: The Manager of the Plainfield Country Store does not seem interested, so it is clear that we will not be re-installing the EV charger there. School is an ideal place for charger. A suggestion was made to raffle off the EV charger that we have (which is the one that used to be installed at the Plainfield Country Store).

RECYCLING CENTER OFF-GRID SOLAR SYSTEM PROGRESS. The fireproof box containing batteries needs to be painted and the first set of batteries that were purchased are being exchanged for UL Listed ones. Joanna would like to have signs made (preferably laminated) containing photos of the installation process and educational information about the system. Tony will provide code labels. Joanna will draft an outline of sign info.

COMMUNITY POWER: Selectboard still in process of considering Community Power and Jason Bourne is in touch with CPCNH. Joanna is gathering info on third party electricity suppliers. State has a website with list of 3rd party electric suppliers in NH. The main differences between 3rd party electricity suppliers and Community Power are:

1. 3rd party suppliers are often large for-profit companies with customers from all around the U.S. and are not locally headquartered.
2. They frequently offer variable rates, which can change without notice to customers.
3. They don't have an interest in improving local communities or reducing energy use.
4. CPCNH is a non-profit organization run by NH towns.
5. CPCNH builds a reserve of funds from surplus profits to keep prices consistently low even in future times when prices are high, and to fund renewable energy projects. They put all profits back into the communities they serve.
6. Local communities have direct access and control of CPCNH policies and decisions.
7. Residents who are enrolled in CPCNH can opt out at any time (at the end of a monthly billing cycle), while those signed up with 3rd party electricity suppliers are often locked into longer contracts.

COMMUNITY SOLAR: Community Solar is the installation of large solar arrays to serve multiple customers. ReVision Energy is launching community solar installations in NH, and is inviting landowners who might have land suitable for large solar arrays to get in touch with them.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER: Tabled until Zack has time to finish this project.

EV POLICE CRUISERS: Police Departments in several NH towns have replaced their police cruisers with EVs, and have reaped significant savings in doing so: about \$5,000 saved each year in fuel and maintenance costs. Claremont recently obtained an EV police cruiser through a donation. There is a report written by John Kondos and Clean Energy NH which details the advantages of switching to EV police cruisers: [Report](#)

STATE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO REPLACE DIESEL VEHICLES: There are State grants available (derived from the Volkswagen court settlement) to replace Town diesel Class 4 - 8 vehicles with electric or cleaner diesel alternatives. Joanna sent info to Selectboard and encouraged them to talk with Road Agent and Police Dept.

The NH State Clean Diesel Program will fund 25-50% of the cost, and proposals are due **Sept. 15, 2023**. <https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/dera>

The Granite State Clean Fleets programs will fund 80-95% of the cost, ***including EV charging infrastructure***, and proposals are due **Oct. 13, 2023**. <https://www.des.nh.gov/business-and-community/loans-and-grants/volkswagen-mitigation-trust>

It is the Town's responsibility to look into money offered. It would be dependent on inventory needs. Caroline Storrs suggested a good place to start is to write up an inventory of all Town vehicles. It would be good to keep in mind that EVs are available as replacement vehicles when our existing vehicles need to be replaced. Joanna will follow up with Selectboard and Caroline Storrs would be happy to offer help with grant.

15 MINUTE DISCUSSION: Discussion about inverters. Inverters convert electricity from DC to AC (or vice-versa). Discussion on police cruisers and plow trucks and whether they will work as EVs. EVs as bidirectional chargers.

Doug Cogan spoke about a new product offered by Solaflect: off-grid solar EV chargers, which use DC solar energy to directly charge EVs. More efficient because there is no need to convert energy from AC (grid power) to DC. More affordable way for businesses or schools to provide EV charging for their employees while they are at work. Can only work during the day (when sun is shining).

NEXT MEETING: September 18, 7 to 8:30, at Town Offices.