

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

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

PRESENT: In person: Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Fred Weld, Everett Cass, Bill Cable, Nancy Wightman. Via Zoom: Dan Poor, Richard Gendron, Tony Newton; Bob Jordon and Nick Cohen (PEC) and from Solaflect Rob Adams, Doug Cogan and David Lutz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES. Nancy moved, Everett seconded and all approved the August 14 minutes.

SOLAFLECT SOLAR-POWERED EV-CHARGERS: Rob Adams of Solaflect was invited by the Committee to speak about Solaflect's new product: a solar-powered EV charger. Because it takes several hours to charge, this type of charger is best suited to businesses, industries, municipalities and colleges as a benefit for their employees, who can park their cars and charge them while at work. One unit can charge 4 cars at once, and consists of a solar tracker mounted on a cross-shaped concrete base with a buffer battery, an inverter, and 4 Level II EV chargers. It is non-disruptive (requires no digging, utility connections, construction or electricians), can be moved and relocated when necessary, is set up in one day, and is non-grid reliant. It provides power for commuting and daily needs. It uses a J1772 plug and has charging adapters for any car. They are being set up at Dartmouth, Hypertherm, Middlebury College, at Marbleworks and more. The tracker is a 6.2 kW array giving 10,000 kWhs per year per EV. To lease: \$4000 per year. To buy: \$15,000 plus a 30% federal tax credit. It is expected that 25% of cars will be EVs by 2025.

E-BIKE/LAWN EQUIPMENT EVENT. August 26, a perfect day, brought out 24 people not counting volunteers and committee members. There were 8 who tried out the bikes that day, and 6 took them for 2 day loans during the week. Being our 4th year, and since so many now have their own ebikes, Bill Cable and his colleagues have recommended that we not participate in the Vital Communities program next year. If we want to do an ebike demonstration in the future, we have enough ebikes among members and allies who can bring their personal ebike for such a purpose.

BATTERY FORUM. November 8. Title will be: Home Battery Systems. Four presenters will each speak for 10 minutes, giving 50 minutes for Q & A. Evan will set up Zoom registration, and draft a poster using our educational series template and Joanna's publicity blurb after the speakers OK it. We hope Evan will submit an announcement about the event to the Valley News Calendar and to Plainfacts. Publicity will begin October 2. Steve will be asked to do the email blitz. Joanna will send it to ConnectCornish, some listservs, and Town website.

UPPER VALLEY EV EXPO & EV-CHARGER RAFFLE: There will be an Electric Vehicle Expo on Saturday September 30 from 10am-3pm at the Lebanon City Hall. We have a Siemens

Level II EV Charger that was given to our energy committee in 2014 or 2015 as a reward for our SOLARIZE 2014 program. It was installed at the Plainfield Store for many years until the store changed ownership and the charger was no longer desired. We have decided to raffle it off for \$5 per ticket at the EV Expo on Sept. 30, and share the proceeds 50/50 with the organizers of the Expo. The initial cost of the charger at that time was \$650. We will have a table at the Lebanon EV event, and Bill Cable, Nancy Wightman, Joanna Sharf and Richard Thompson will volunteer to sell raffle tickets.

RECYCLING CENTER OFF-GRID SOLAR SYSTEM: The off-grid solar system is now up and running. Joanna has labeled all the components and created a diagram and an information notebook for the public. Committee members will provide guided tours of the system. Joanna and Tony will provide a private tour for the Recycling Center staff on Saturday September 23. Guided tours for the public will be held on Sunday October 1 at 2pm and Saturday October 7 at 3pm. Nancy and Joanna will make a sign for RC and Joanna will email Selectboard and Connectcornish.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER: A goal and a focus is needed to consolidate the Town buildings energy usage. The goal is to include this info on our Energy Committee website by December. Discussion about what types of charts or graphs can be used and how extensive the info might be. Joanna will email Zack to see if he can produce graphs by the December 11 meeting.

ENERGY COMMITTEE WEBSITE: Joanna would like to see the website organized in a better way, so that previous events, links to helpful information, our committee history and other items are not haphazardly collected under different buttons. She would also like to collect all the past Did You Know articles and post them on the website. Nancy has not found any recent topics for a Did You Know article and has not saved a lot of them from the past, but they can be retrieved from emails and old Connect Cornish editions. Joanna needs help to work on this project. Once all the material is organized, Joanna will email it to Heidi Jaarsma to upload it to the website.

15 MINUTE DISCUSSION: Everett cautioned about joining the Community Power Coalition of NH as he reported that Eversource has lowered its price for electricity by 7 cents/kWh. Others countered that price fluctuations are to be expected, and most probably CPCNH can match or beat that, and also winter prices will probably rise among all utilities. Tony donated a small fridge (80 W) to the Recycling Center. He will check up on batteries from time to time. Bill will make a container sleeve for paperwork at the RC. Fred Weld announced his resignation from the committee effective immediately.

NEXT MEETING: October 9, 7 pm at the Town Offices.