

CORNISH & PLAINFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES -draft
January 8, 2024, 7-8:30pm
Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom

PRESENT: in person: CEC members, Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Nancy Wightman, Everett Cass, Bill Cable and potential members, Myron Kuhre, Bill Schmidt. Via Zoom: PEC members, Evan Oxenham, Ron Eberhardt, Bob Jordan.
Bill Cable appointed as a voting member.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Nancy made the motion to accept December 18, 2023 minutes, seconded by Richard Thompson and all approved.

GROUND SOURCED HEAT PUMPS: Six or seven members will visit Plainfield resident Don Jordan's house on Saturday, January 20th at 1 pm to view his ground sourced heat pump system. His house was built several years ago by Paul Biebel Builders and incorporates several energy efficient building methods and also includes solar. Evan contacted Eric Peterson at K.E. Bergeron and was told they do not install ground sourced heat pumps. Joanna will contact the other businesses.

BUTTON UP: Joanna corresponded with Robbin Adams who is the NHSaves Button Up Coordinator (and also works with Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative). He said there is no cost for a Button Up presentation; that money comes from the utilities; and that he is waiting for funding to come through. He will provide a flyer and press release and will get back to Joanna when the funding is available. We need to provide him with several dates that would work for us for a Button Up presentation. We agreed on the following possible dates: April 15, 16, 22, and 23. It will be a Zoom presentation.

INFLATION REDUCATION ACT UPDATE: For 2024, the electric vehicle tax credit will also be available as a Point of Sale (POS) rebate if the dealer is registered and if qualifications are met. States are supposed to implement these rebates, and various states are at different stages of preparedness for such implementation. Bill Schmidt provided the Committee with a Washington Post article that gave a good overview of all the incentives that will be available. Much of the info for that article was taken from the website www.rewiringamerica.org, which is a good resource for info on IRA rebates. Joanna will request a NH State Dept of Energy person to update us on the progress that NH is making toward implementation of these incentives. It would be good to have a forum on this topic some time in June or July with a representative from the NH Dept. of Energy and possibly Clean Energy NH.

WIND POWER FORUM: Bill researched KUA's windmill which was installed in 2013. It is a 5kW windmill which, with an average of 11 mph wind, will give about 10 MW of power over a year. Bill estimated it to have cost about \$48,000 to buy, setup and wire. Bill has had several years of experience with windmills and suggests that it is not cost effective for residential use.

Richard will find out who might be able to talk to us about the Lempster NH wind turbines. Those turbines are owned by Iberdrola. In Lempster there are 12 turbines, each of which generates about 2

MW of power per year, for a total of 24 MW, enough to power about 10,000 homes. The power generated by the Lempster turbines is sold to the utilities, including NHEC. Richard will contact NHEC and the town of Lempster. We will work towards a September forum.

NEW MEMBERS: No action from Selectboard. Joanna and Richard will meet with them on January 15th at 6:30 pm.

TOWN OFFICE ENERGY AUDIT: Joanna contacted Eversource about funding available for the energy efficiency measures listed in the audit report for the Town Offices. She corresponded with Jack Paloucek who said that Eversource historically has funded up to 50% of costs. He will get back to her and she will update Selectboard during her Monday visit.

Annual Municipal Energy Use: Nancy has been recording town energy use since 2010. She and Myron will work together in early February to record the town's energy usage for 2023.

LARGE SOLAR ARRAY AT FAIRGROUNDS: This is just a germ of an idea at this point. Three years ago, the Energy Committee was looking for a solar site that could offset municipal electrical usage, including the school's electrical usage. We considered several possibilities including the Recycling Center, the Fairgrounds, and the school grounds. We talked to Wayne Gray president of the Fair Association in March of 2021 and walked the fairgrounds with him and discussed possible sites. We then approached Revision Energy and they thought the best location would be a rooftop solar array on the school, and gave us a proposal, so that became our focus and the other potential solar locations were abandoned at that point. But three years later, the school is still bogged down with the need to update its roof and make other building decisions before it can consider solar. So now we would like to begin to discuss another option for a large solar array that can offset town electricity usage. Richard will bring the engineer's report on the school roof to next meeting. Further discussion on this topic is needed.

PORTFOLIO MANAGER: Joanna will contact Zack Hallock and ask him if he can prepare graphs of the following by March 1:

1. Bar graph of 2023 electricity usage month by month.
2. Bar graph of annual totals of electricity usage for each year from 2010-2023.
3. Bar graph of annual totals of gas, diesel, oil & propane use from 2010-2023.
4. Pie graph for just 2 years: 2010 and 2023 for all types of town energy use.

ORGANIZING DID YOU KNOW? Articles. Nancy will send all future DYK? Articles to Heidi for posting on the Cornish website.

NEXT MEETING: February 12, 7pm at Cornish Town Office and via Zoom.

ADDENDUM: Update from Nancy: We didn't start recording energy usage from the Elementary School until 2015, so the graphs in Portfolio Manager will need to be adjusted accordingly.