

CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

November 3, 2025, 7:00 – 8:30 PM

Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom

ATTENDEES: In person: CEC members Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, Myron Kuhre and Bill Schmidt; Cornish resident Keith Foston.

Via Zoom: CEC Alternate Susanne Haseman; and Tony Newton (Cornish) and Bill Caterino (Cornish).

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES: Bill moved adoption of the October 2025 minutes and Richard seconded. The minutes were approved.

REPORT ON COMMUNITY POWER COALITION OF NEW HAMPSHIRE ANNUAL MEMBERS' MEETING: Joanna attended the CPCNH annual members' meeting on October 24th. She reported that she is impressed with the group's overall programming, including an improved website, work on community solar projects in Warner and elsewhere, and legislative advocacy in Concord. In addition, they are taking significant steps to improve their financial risk management policies related to electricity purchasing. A search is currently underway for a new Executive Director. Joanna spoke with Andrew Hatch at the meeting, and he offered to attend an upcoming Committee meeting to discuss Cornish's options as to whether to bring a vote at Town Meeting. It's possible that CPCNH will not be able to offer electricity rates lower than the utilities for another year or so while they replenish reserves. Joanna reported on how various towns are using funds raised through electricity rate "adders" for worthwhile renewable energy projects. The Committee also discussed the fact that Sullivan County has approved community power on a county-wide basis. Cornish residents could join community power through the county on an opt-in basis.

EDUCATIONAL FORUMS: The Committee discussed the upcoming "Mechanics of Condensation" presentation on November 13th. The presenter will be Nate Gusakov. Joanna reported that 26 people had registered so far and suggested that additional publicity is needed. The Committee discussed additional posters around town, another email to town energy committees, an additional post on the listservs, and a plan to reach out to local builders. The goal is to attract both homeowners and local builders to the webinar. Joanna then mentioned that Ethan Cole of Earthshare Construction and Ryan Hereth of GeoBarns are going to do a joint presentation in early December. The Committee then discussed an offer from Paul Bemis from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) to speak with the Committee about a recent ASHRAE study and report on building standards. Paul Bemis is also the chair of the Bristol Energy Committee. Richard suggested the possibility of a webinar on this topic. Joanna will ask Paul Bemis if he's willing to present to our Committee in January, and Bill offered to check to see if he had presented at the September Local Energy Solutions conference.

REPORT ON THE NEW HAMPSHIRE COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN MEETING AND COMMENT PERIOD:

Bill attended a meeting on October 30th at the Kilton Library in West Lebanon hosted by the NH Department of Environmental Services to gather additional input on draft measures to be included in the draft NH Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. The meeting was one of many that NHDES has held around the state over the past two years to hear from individuals, towns, and various commercial sectors about what is needed to reduce emissions over time in NH. The process for drafting a Climate Action plan was initiated in response to the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). NH applied for and received federal funds under the IRA to come up with a plan. This plan is necessary for NH to qualify for receiving other funds under the IRA. There is currently a comment period, closing on November 15th, focused on soliciting further input on the draft measures. The Committee discussed drafting a response to the proposed plan, and Richard offered to write a comment on including methane monitoring in the plan. Go to this link: <https://www.des.nh.gov/comprehensive-climate-action-plan> and click on “For more information” to see the Notice of Request for Public Comment.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Myron indicated that he needs to step back from full membership on the Committee for personal reasons. He can stay engaged as an Alternate. Keith Foston attended the meeting and expressed interest in joining the Committee, though his level of commitment could fluctuate over time depending on his work schedule. Keith has business background in renewable energy software development, including with Siemens. He also recently built his own solar array for his home. The Committee voted to recommend Keith to the Selectboard as a member of the Committee. Susanne Haseman will consider becoming a full member of the Committee.

TOWN ENERGY USE DATA COLLECTION: Keith agreed, on a volunteer basis, to take over the work on moving the 2024 data from the current Google spreadsheet into Portfolio Manager. He will also try to get the data onto our website. Joanna and the Committee thanked Myron for getting the project to this stage. Keith knows John Drye and will contact him for help on next steps. Joanna will send Keith the link to the Google spreadsheet and login info for Portfolio Manager.

RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTIFICATES: The Committee continued its discussions about the processes and procedures for RECs with the various utilities, as well as with CPCNH, which is now purchasing RECs. Keith described his own experience with his solar array construction and the RECs practices of his utility, Liberty. He shared that he had sold his RECs to CPCNH.

WEBSITE SUBCOMMITTEE: Joanna reported that the Subcommittee’s next meeting is November 11th, and that the group (Joanna, Bill and Richard) are making good progress. She also mentioned that Richard has been in touch with the Town Clerk about capturing a few basic data points about CEC website traffic via Google Analytics.

The Committee adjourned at 8:30 PM

NEXT MEETING: December 1, 2025.