

## CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

February 9, 2026, 5:30 – 7:00 PM

Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom

**ATTENDEES:** In person: CEC members Joanna Sharf, Richard Thompson, and Bill Schmidt; and Doug Cogan (Clean Energy NH) and Stuart Foote (Cornish).

Via Zoom: CEC Members Myron Kuhre (health) and Mike Belanger (house obligations); CEC Alternates Susanne Haseman (animal care) and Frank Parks (personal obligations); and Tony Newton (Cornish).

**APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19TH MINUTES:** Richard moved adoption of the minutes and Bill seconded. The minutes were approved.

**HILLSBORO AREA RENEWABLE ENERGY INITIATIVE (HAREI):** Tony Newton provided an overview of HAREI, which is a group of volunteers in the Hillsboro area that work together to install solar power for residents and town buildings. To date, over 135 installations have been completed. HAREI is a nonprofit membership organization that coordinates the volunteers and projects, and provides general liability insurance for its members. It also provides resources and information on energy efficient appliances. Additional liability protection is also provided by a NH volunteer immunity law. A few engineers involved in the projects are paid out of membership dues. For each project, the homeowner pays for an electrician. HAREI provides assessments and helps with purchasing the solar panels and other components. Installations are generally done in one day. The Committee and Tony discussed whether this program could be replicated in Cornish. Tony believes it could be done in Cornish without as much infrastructure, though some liability insurance (along with the NH volunteer immunity law) would be needed. HAREI could help Cornish get organized, and the town could partner with Plainfield, Lebanon and other neighboring towns. Joanna thanked Tony for the information and indicated that the Committee would discuss this program further at future meetings.

**NEW CEC MEMBERSHIP:** The Committee discussed possible Alternate membership on the Committee with Stuart Foote. Stuart has attended several meetings and has expressed interest in joining the Committee. He and his wife moved to Cornish recently from San Antonio, TX where Stuart worked for the military and then the University of TX. He has experience as both a systems administrator and a lab administrator and has managed servers and worked with GIS systems. Stuart expressed interest in all aspects of the Committee's work. After a brief executive session discussion, the Committee confirmed that Stuart had been approved as a new Alternate and Susanne as a full member (since Myron has expressed interest in becoming an Alternate). These recommendations would be sent on to the Select Board.

**COMMUNITY POWER:** Joanna had sent out revised drafts – a short version and a longer version – of a statement on the latest news regarding community power in light of

the Select Board's objection to wording that leaned toward advocacy in the previous draft which violates Section 4 of the town's website policy. After some discussion, Joanna asked everyone to submit comments and suggested changes via email. She will consolidate the input and send out a final draft to the Committee for final approval.

**NEW COMMITTEE CHAIR TRANSITION:** Joanna reminded the Committee that Officers will need to be elected for 12 month terms at the March meeting and reiterated her plans to step down as Chair and as a member of the Committee, effective at the end of that meeting. Joanna reviewed many of the ongoing tasks of the Chair, including running the Zoom meetings, Committee and town notices on the website and in Connect Cornish, room reservations, securing a key for the room, review of draft minutes and other items. She highlighted the town energy use data collection project as a high priority for this year.

**FUTURE EDUCATION TOPICS:** Joanna mentioned several possible topics for the remainder of 2026: new building energy codes, a presentation on energy efficiency and solar power for the new library and community center, and possibly agrivoltaics.

**WEBSITE SUBCOMMITTEE:** Joanna reported that the Subcommittee is close to finalizing new content and will be meeting again on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

**NEXT MEETING:** March 2, 2026, 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM.