

CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 14, 2026, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
Cornish Town Offices and via Zoom

ATTENDEES:

In person: CEC members Richard Thompson, Susanne Haseman, Bill Schmidt, Mike Belanger and Stuart Foote; Doug Cogan (Clean Energy New Hampshire) and Kevin Noble (Cornish).
Via Zoom: Alternate Tony Newton (scheduling conflict), Evan Oxenham (Plainfield), Joanna Sharf (Cornish), Peter Storrs (Cornish) and Chris Sparadeo (Steady Energy, LLC).

APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES: Bill moved adoption of the August minutes and Stuart seconded. The minutes were approved.

CORNISH LIBRARY AND COMMUNITY CENTER SOLAR PROJECT UPDATE: Chris Sparadeo, Steady Energy, LLC, provided a comprehensive update on the solar energy installation at the Cornish Library and Community Center. The system will include 100 solar modules with a capacity of 43.5 kWh and will generate approximately 47 mWh annually. It is estimated that the building will consume 30.5 kWh per year, though this number could increase based on actual usage of the space. The system is designed to produce 154% of the building's energy usage from solar. The project hit a few unexpected obstacles, but they have been resolved and final inspections by the state and Liberty Utilities are scheduled for September 15th. Chris does not anticipate any last minute issues. The Committee discussed the possibility of establishing real-time monitoring of the system via computer tablet as an educational opportunity and also suggested the possibility of an official commissioning of the building since it will be among the most significant buildings in Cornish and will be a model for energy efficiency. Tony asked what steps are being taken to record renewable energy certificates (RECs) and provided information on what is needed for that process. Joanna offered to work with Tony on identifying the requirements and speaking with the necessary parties. Finally, Chris was asked about battery storage and backup, and he indicated that batteries for this building would be cost prohibitive and not practical. The Cornish Community Initiative is currently exploring the option of filing for a federal tax credit through the IRS Direct Pay program, and Doug said he would follow up to help with the application.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Richard announced that Tony Newton has been approved by the Select Board as an Alternate member of the Committee. He also announced that Frank Parks has had to step down as an Alternate. Mike introduced Kevin Noble as a possible replacement as Alternate, and Kevin provided the Committee with his background and experience, and his interest in the work of the Committee. He has extensive knowledge and expertise in creating and administering green energy programs on a large scale, interconnection agreements and energy analysis. The Committee agreed that Kevin could be very helpful, and Richard made a motion that the Committee recommend Kevin as an Alternate to the Select Board, and Mike seconded. The motion was approved. Richard and Mike will follow up with the Select Board as soon as possible.

CLEAN ENERGY GRANT OPPORTUNITIES UPDATE: Doug reported that the Granite State Clean Fleets program is winding down, though there are limited remaining funds being directed towards EV charging projects. He also let the Committee know that Lebanon has applied for a community grant from the New England Heat Pump Accelerator program. The application is

focused on establishing a local resident-to-resident coaching program on heat pump installation. The program is modeled on the Monadnock Sustainability Hub coaching program. The grant would include all 27 towns of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 PM.

Next meeting: October 5th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM