CORNISH ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
November 2, 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.
Via Zoom: Alternates Tony Newton (scheduling conflict) and Kevin Noble (scheduling conflict); Joanna Sharf (Cornish), and Doug Cogan (Clean Energy New Hampshire).

APPROVAL OF JUNE MEETING MINUTES: Richard moved adoption of the October minutes and Mike seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS: Joanna reported that Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding for energy efficiency funding programs is starting to flow to the states. The New Hampshire Department of Energy (NHDOE) anticipates that rebates and incentives will become available in December. Funding availability will be based on income. The Committee discussed the possibility of an educational forum on the IRA programs in January. Possible speakers could be Josh Elliott from NHDOE and Kurt Yuengling from the NH Department of Environmental Services. The Committee also discussed the option of including the topic of heat pumps in this forum but decided it might be too much content for one forum. Susanne offered to work with Joanna on finding a date and lining up speakers.

ENERGY TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP PROJECT (ETIPP):
Kevin shared what he had learned about the ETIPP, a US Department of Energy program administered through the National Laboratory of the Rockies. The program supports certain types of communities in developing energy resiliency plans. The main focus is on coastal areas and islands with unique features, so Kevin concluded that it's not a viable option for Cornish to pursue. The Committee agreed.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ELECTRIC COOP(NHEC)/NH SAVES CLEAN ENERGY FUNDING: Kevin spoke with NHEC and learned that it has significant NH Saves funding that it wants to disburse over the next three years. NHEC is offering no-cost energy assessments of town buildings and will cover up to 85% of the cost of projects submitted by the end of the year. The companies KT&T and Franklin were discussed as possible contractors for the work if funds are awarded. Kevin will speak with Eric Sanberg at NHEC to learn more details about the opportunity, as well as the criteria for funding. The Committee discussed the school, fire station (in the Flat) and the highway garage as possible project sites since they are in NHEC territory. Based on his extensive experience with energy projects, Kevin offered to conduct preliminary assessments. Regarding the school, the Committee considered a motion to authorize Kevin to approach the school, and the motion was approved unanimously. The Committee briefly discussed a Liberty "look back" program that could be an option for heat pumps already installed at the fire station in the Flat. More information is needed on the timing of the heat pump installation. It was suggested that the Committee give the Select Board a heads up on this activity. Kevin will follow up with them.

RE-CHARGE THE ADVENTURE GRANTS: In the interest of time, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

LOCAL ENERGY SOLUTIONS MEETING: Doug reminded the Committee that the annual LES meeting, hosted by Clean Energy NH, will take place on November 12th in Manchester. HAREI will be making a presentation on their work during the conference. Richard and Bill are registered and plan to attend.

CPCNH ANNUAL MEETING: Bill and Joanna will be attending the CPCNH annual meeting, and Board meeting, in Concord on November 5th.

UPPER VALLEY SUSTAINABILITY HUB: Richard reported that the UV HUB recently held its third organizing meeting, which was hosted by Sherry Boschert. Modeled on the Monadnock Sustainability HUB, the goal of the UV HUB is to provide energy coaching programs and grants to support home electrification projects. The proposed boundary for the group's work is the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Planning Region, which comprises 27 towns.

HAREI UPDATE: Tony reported that HAREI has declined to serve as a fiscal agent for the Cornish area group. However, they are committed to helping out on all other aspects of projects that may arise. Tony also reported that he is involved with low-income solar construction in Cornish with private funds that have been raised locally. Finally, he mentioned that SolarEdge has made changes to its inverters that will cause problems in tracking renewable energy certificates (RECs).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Next meeting: December 7th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM