Plainfield Energy Committee Report 2015

The year’s effort was a continuation of projects begun in previous years with the focus on three projects.

Meriden Town Hall

We have validated that the energy improvements at the town hall started early in 2013 have had a dramatic effect on the heating efficiency of this building. Using data compiled since 2007, we see that we used 34% less oil in the past 2 years compared to the previous years. The calculations are based on the number of gallons used per heating degree days over the year, so the variations in temperature are accounted for. We attribute this savings largely to the installation of an indoor/outdoor furnace sensor, programmable thermostats, removal of an unused door and insulating that space, and insulation of hot water pipes. You can download the detailed analysis at the Energy Committee’s website under ‘Reports’ (http://www.plainfieldnh.org/energy/MTH Oil Use 2007-2014.xlsx).

Work on the Meriden Town Hall continued. The restoration of the small windows and the doors was completed. It was hoped that the historically appropriate storm windows to protect these would have been installed by November, but the contractor was unable to meet this schedule. The town has received another Moose plate grant for $7047 that will allow us to install historically appropriate storm windows for all the windows in 2016. These will both protect the town’s investment and to further limit heat loss. Once the storm windows are installed we will proceed with the rehabilitation of the large windows in 2017.

Town Garage

What started off as a feasibility study on creating our own electricity for the Town Garage using PV Solar panels has expanded into a full engineering assessment of the structure. Members of the Energy Committee together with representatives from the Planning Board, Zoning Board and Conservation Commission formed the Plainfield Town Garage Study Group which has been tasked with this engineering assessment. This has proved to be a significant effort and the work continues in 2016. The Plainfield Town Garage Study Group is providing a separate report which details this work.

Charging Station

Together with the Cornish Energy Committee we installed a charging station for electric vehicles at Anne’s Country Store. Joanna Scharf did the electrical installation and Bill Cable was responsible for the charger and built the appropriate enclosure. A $1000 check from Solar Source covered the cost. Anne has since installed solar panels on the store, which power the store and the charging station.
Solarize Plainfield-Cornish II (2016)

For 2016, we hope to run a second round of Solarize Plainfield-Cornish. Visit our Energy Committee page on our town website (http://www.plainfieldnh.org/energy/energy.htm) to find out more about this project.

Allan Ferguson, Betsy Rybeck-Lynd, Evan Oxenham, Michael OLeary, Nancy Mogielnicki, Ron Eberhardt, Steven Ladd.