



**Town of Plaistow, NH  
Energy Committee  
145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865**

**ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
April 7, 2021**

**Call to Order:** 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Tim Moore, *Chair*  
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair*  
Geoffrey Adams  
Peter Bealo, *excused*  
John DeRoche, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio*

Also present: Dee Voss, *Planning Department Administrative Assistant*

**Agenda Item 2: Review/Approval of Minutes**

March 3, 2021 Minutes

★ *G. Marchand moved, second by G. Adams, to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2021, meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 3-0-1 (DeRoche abstaining).*

**Agenda Item 3: Re-Organization – Nominations**

**a. Chair**

★ *G. Adams nominated T. Moore as chair of the Energy Committee for the next year, second by T. Moore. There were no other nominations for chair. The vote was 4-0-0 U/A.*

**b. Vice Chair**

★ *G. Adams nominated G. Marchand as vice chair of the Energy Committee for the next year, second by J. DeRoche. There were no other nominations for vice chair. The vote was 4-0-0 U/A.*

**Agenda Item 4: LED Streetlights Policy – Review and Recommendation**

The Energy Committee (EComm) reviewed a draft of an LED Streetlight Policy. Now that the streetlights are owned by the Town, a Policy is being developed to answer requests for additional streetlights, or removal/relocation of streetlights from residents and businesses. The policy is intended to define a review process so that streetlighting is based on a public safety need, instead of merely a want. The process included an application, review by the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) and EComm, and then a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) regarding the application.

P. Bealo was unable to attend this meeting but sent in comments for the EComm. One comment was a correction to the designation of 3,000 deg K to 3,000K. The other comment was that the timeline for review was too long.

T. Moore, who had authored the draft, noted that he struggled with the timeline. He used the timeline that he did because not all the review committees meet regularly.

There was discussion about the HSC, which had not met in over a year and whether or not it was a viable committee any longer. It was noted that the membership had formerly been: Police Chief, Fire Chief, Building Inspector, Highway Supervisor, Planning Department, BOS Representative (and alternate) and three (3) members of the public. There had also been some representation from the Timberlane School District for a show time as well. T. Moore offered that he believed there needed to be a HSC in order to make the Town eligible to receive the Highway Block Grant monies. More research is needed.

It was suggested that once the policy was adopted, the application form would be available on the EComm's page of the Town's Website and linked to the "Find it Fast" feature.

T. Moore offered that the next step, if the EComm was satisfied with the draft policy, would be to send it to the BOS with a recommendation that it be adopted as one of their policies.

**★ G. Marchand moved, second by G. Adams, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that they adopt the LED Streetlight Policy.**

#### Discussion

It was noted that if there was an issue with the HSC, then the BOS would bounce it back to the EComm for further review.

***There was no additional discussion on the motion. The vote was 4-0-0 U/A.***

#### **Agenda Item #5: Community Power**

T. Moore reminded that there had been a Warrant Article at last Town Meeting, which passed, regarding participation in Community Power. He offered that the next step was to prepare an electric aggregation plan template, and that he had started working on one. He asked that this item be carried to the next agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Old Business**

##### Energy-related Warrant Articles

There was discussion about the Warrant Articles that had appeared on the recent Town Meeting ballot. It was noted that the Phase 2 Solar Array for the Salt Shed at the Public Works Garage had passed, but additional funding for the Energy Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) had not. It was discussed that having a more concrete plan would show voters where money from the Energy CRF would be spent. It was also recommended that the

EComm put together a video of where money has been spent and where it could be spent in the future, that could run on cable as well as be available on the website.

#### Future Project/EComm CIP

There was discussion about the need to revitalize the EComm's Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to be more focused on where to go in the future. It was noted that the had been success with some projects (LED Streetlight Conversion, Town Hall LED Lighting Conversion, Energy Audits of Library, Historical Society and Town Hall), but there are still projects that are worthy of doing.

There was discussion about a potential solar array on the closed landfill, once the cover is repaired. It was noted that there were previously issues with the cover and net metering that had shelved the discussion. Options for moving such a project forward, such as whether to do it as a town, or lease it to a private entity were discussed. No action can be taken until the cover repair work is completed.

T. Moore offered that he would like to have assistance from Joshua Singer, of Clean Energy NH, in identifying viable projects and helping to develop a plan. Mr. Singer will be invited to the next EComm meeting.

#### Electric Vehicles

T. Moore noted that the discussion regarding electric vehicles has been put on hold. The Town is not looking to replace vehicles at this time, and since the technology is rapidly changing, it's best to wait until the Town is looking into replacement vehicles.

#### Electric Rates/Electric Aggregation

There was discussion regarding increased electric rates. It was noted that Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) was exploring the possibility of being absorbed into the Community Power, so the discussion on electric aggregation is on hold.

### **Agenda Item 7: New Business**

#### Joshua Singer – Clean Energy NH

T. Moore noted that he would like to have J. Singer discuss three topics at the next meeting: Community Power; Aggregation; and recommendations for long-range projects for the Town.

#### Energy Fair

T. Moore noted that he was again looking into the possibility of an Energy Fair. He noted that working with the schools didn't happen, but there may be an opportunity to partner with the YMCA in the Spring/Fall of 2022.

#### Other Updates:

D. Voss gave an update of the solar array (Phase 1 and 2) for the Salt Shed at the Public Works Garage. It was noted that there have been some sticking points with the contract between the Town and ReVision that are still being worked on.

J. DeRoche suggested there be some long-range planning explored in solar, wind and other technologies.

It was also noted that the Energy CIP needed to be updated to include the completed projects and their paybacks.

There were no additional matters before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss  
Administrative Assistant