



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

**ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
July 7, 2021**

**Call to Order:** 5:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Tim Moore, *Chair*  
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair*  
Geoffrey Adams, *absent*  
Peter Bealo  
John DeRoche, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio*, arrived 5:29 pm

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

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

June 2, 2021, Minutes

**★ P. Bealo moved, second by G. Marchand, to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2021, meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 3-0-o U/A**

**Agenda Item 3: Discussion with Joshua Singer, Clean Energy NH**

Joshua Singer, Program Coordinator, Clean Energy NH (CENH), was present via Zoom.

J. Singer gave some updates to pending legislation regarding Community Power and spoke about some potential funding that will be available if the federal proposed infrastructure bill passes.

J. Singer also spoke about the new Department of Energy and how it will function.

T. Moore noted that there had been some discussion regarding a potential solar array on the Town's capped landfill and asked if there had been any change to the net metering cap.

J. Singer replied that there was a bipartisan bill on the Governor's desk, but they would have to go back for an increase. He suggested that the Town look into grants and programs that will help design a solar array for the landfill. He cautioned that many landfills have issues with wetlands, wildlife habitats and power lines.

There was a discussion about the Plaistow capped landfill and the potential for a solar array. It was noted that there have been methane issues with the property for a long time. J. Singer offered to assist with some research on the topic. T. Moore offered that the focus for the Town is on Community Power and the Landfill.

There was discussion regarding Community Power and the Town's intent. It was noted that the Town was considering joining the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) aggregation. It was noted that the Plaistow Public Library was part of that group. It was

also noted that until recently, the Town had the same third party vendor (Constellation) for electrical as RPC was currently using. It was also noted that there as discussion about possibly merging some energy aggregations within Rockingham County for a larger base and then Community Power came along.

J. Singer suggested that the EComm take a look at the Community Power website and see what resources are available. It was noted that so much was still waiting on legislation to be approved.

T. Moore added that another complicating factor is that all third party contracts end at different times and perhaps there should be some consideration given to prorating or staggering.

J. Singer offered that it all goes back to the legislation and how the rules are decided. He added that utilities are unwilling to make changes that would force them to make changes so that net metering and Community Power can become a thing.

T. Moore noted that the Town approved a solar array on the Municipal Salt Shed and questioned if it made sense to pursue solar on other town-owned buildings.

J. Singer responded that it's not easy to net meter around to different buildings.

T. Moore offered that the Town Hall wouldn't be a practical place for a solar array based on its angles and the slate roof. He added that the new Public Works Garage roof might be another good place for an array.

*J. DeRoche arrived at 5:29 p.m.*

It was noted that the Library had been talking about solar and perhaps the Public Safety Complex would be a good place as well.

G. Marchand asked about solar arrays on parking structures.

J. Singer noted that they work well for the dual purpose of parking and generating solar energy.

T. Moore suggested that the new plan would be to look into solar arrays for the Landfill and other town-owned buildings and land.

J. Singer suggested that the Town speak with a provider about doing a solar audit.

There was additional discussion about the possibility of grants and that it would be a good time to get some projects together for when funds become available.

J. Singer noted that the important advances in energy are in solar, hydro, wind and nuclear power. It was noted that solar, hydro and wind were location dependent.

There was discussion about wind energy. It was noted that there were few locations in Town that would be suitable for wind turbines. It was also noted that the Town does have a Wind Turbine Ordinance, but nothing has ever been built using it.

It was suggested to contact ReVision, who is the vendor for the Salt Shed Solar project and see if they would be willing to do an audit.

T. Moore noted that he had made a small start with the Town's Energy Aggregation Plan, and once done he would like to pass it by J. Singer for a review. P. Bealo offered to assist with the Plan.

#### **Agenda Item 4: Old Business**

##### **a. Energy Project with the Schools**

Prompted by an article provided by P. Bealo about Derry schools, there was discussion regarding working with the schools on energy projects. T. Moore noted that he has reached out previously and never received a response. He noted that there was no harm in reaching out again.

#### **Agenda Item #5: New Business**

There were no additional matters before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss  
Administrative Assistant