



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

**ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
August 4, 2021**

**Call to Order:** 5:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Tim Moore, *Chair*  
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair*  
Geoffrey Adams, *absent*  
Peter Bealo (*left meeting at 6:02 p.m.*)  
John DeRoche, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio*

Also present: Dee Voss, *Planning Department Administrative Assistant*, and Cab Vinton, *Director, Plaistow Public Library*

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

July 7, 2021, Minutes

**★ P. Bealo moved, second by G. Marchand, to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2021, meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 4-0-0 U/A**

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

Joshua Singer, Program Coordinator, Clean Energy NH (CENH), was present for the discussion.

J. Singer gave some updates to pending legislation regarding Community Power and noting that the bill still had not yet passed. He noted that there was a new Deputy Chair of the new Department of Energy. There isn't a lot of information yet as to who will ultimately be in charge.

J. Singer led a discussion regarding additional solar for the Town, particularly on the capped landfill. He encouraged the EComm to partner with a company, such as ReVision Energy to evaluate where the potential for additional solar projects might be. ReVision can provide information regarding connection to the grid and where to get the best value for the investment.

There was discussion about harvesting methane gas. Durham uses the process to feed the University of New Hampshire and there is some use in Bethlehem, New Hampshire as well. Other than those two examples it was noted that there isn't much of a market for it in New Hampshire.

It was suggested that the landfill cap would be a good location for a solar array, particularly with access to the powerlines right on site. J. Singer suggested that there be an feasibility audit done that will give different options to optimize the site. It was noted that the pending legislative changes could impact that possibility.

There was discussion about Community Power and how to do outreach to the community to get them educated and involved. It was suggested that EComm members could be trained to help residents fill out the application forms. J. Singer offered that there was good information available in the Energy Saves website, with presentation materials available.

J. Singer commented that the S.E.E.D.S (Sustainable Energy Education Demonstration Services) audit that the EComm previously commission had great information, but the payback on the remaining projects may not be worth the investment to do them. He noted the sealing building envelopes is always a good investment, but does usually have a higher cost, especially in older buildings.

There was discussion regarding the roof on the Plaistow Public Library which is nearing end-of-life. It was noted that much had changed since the Library was built and now things like air handling, ventilation and whether or not the roof can handle a solar array are more in the forefront. It was noted that there were newer greener roofing options that prevent heat escape while allowing the building to still breathe and are solar capable. It was also noted the most solar companies will not install on a residential roof that is more than 2-3 years old because of liability concerns. There was discussion about being able to install ground solar arrays at the Library, but there was concern about the aesthetics and wetlands impacts. It was expressed that the landfill might be a better first focus.

There was discussion about involving Unifit early on in any conversation about additional solar installations. It was suggested that a list of potential solar installations be developed for future planning.

P. Bealo noted a recent solar article that he had read in the Wall Street Journal and offered to forward it to the EComm.

J. Singer noted there was a LES (Local Energy Solutions) Conference on October 8. It will be a hybrid presentation.

There was a discussion about incinerators. J. Singer noted that there were none located in New Hampshire as the carbon capture equipment is extremely expensive. It was also noted that processing methane and other biodigestables is expensive as well.

C. Vinton noted that the Library had joined the RPC (Rockingham Planning Commission) electrical aggregation and asked if there were similar programs for natural gas available. It was offered that none were known at this time.

T. Moore offered that RPC wanted to start with the electricity aggregation and then move to natural gas as a next phase, but the pandemic slowed that process.

There was additional discussion about aggregations. It was noted that the long term contracts associated with them can make it difficult to switch when opportunities like Community Power or RPC Aggregation become available.

T. Moore summarized the EComm should start with working on identifying which building are suitable for solar installations and should get serious about exploring the possibility of solar on the landfill. He added that the EComm should have a workshop to get

training on how to assist residents with electricity aggregation application and a Spring Energy Fair.

C. Vinton asked if there were any models for Energy Fairs.

J. Singer offered that he didn't know of any.

J. DeRoche suggested partnering with other communities in the region.

T. Moore offered that he like to see if the YMCA could be the venue and if there were some dealers of electric cars that would be interested in participating.

There was discussion about electric cars and charging stations. It was speculated that the charging stations could be a potential source of revenue, but there are challenges in how they are metered. It was noted that Boston was moving forward with the technology to better support electric vehicles.

T. Moore offered that he would also like to focus an upcoming meeting on helping residents with electric aggregations as well as funding/grant sources.

*P. Bealo left the meeting at 6:02 p.m.*

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

There was no Old Business before the Committee at this meeting.

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

T. Moore directed D. Voss to contact ReVision Energy regarding a Solar Audit and to invite a representative to the next EComm meeting on September, 1, 2021

There were no additional matters before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss  
Administrative Assistant