



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

ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 01, 2021

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

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

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

Agenda Item 2: Review/Approval of Minutes

August 4, 2021, Minutes

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

Agenda Item 3: Discussion with John Branagan, ReVision Energy

John Branagan, Commercial Solar Developer, ReVision Energy, was present for the discussion.

J. Branagan gave an introduction, noting he was formally employed by Affinity LED Lighting, and worked with the Town on the streetlight replacement project. He also gave an over of ReVision Energy.

J. Branagan updated the EComm on New Hampshire legislation regarding net metering and capacity.

There was discussion on why there were limits at all. It was noted to be purely political as there was no scientific reason to limit capacity. There was discussion regarding the role of the new Department of Energy (DOE) and oversight of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), term limitations on the Commission to try and make it more bi-partisan and net metering for residential vs. business or municipal.

G. Taillon asked if there were limits as to how much power a residential solar array could produce.

J. Branagan replied that he didn't see that a residential solar array would bump up against a metering cap, but they would still be limited to the same 1MW cap.

There was discussion regarding the billing process and whether the generated solar power was a direct reduction in the billing or more of a credit system. There was also discussion about a wholesale customer, which a municipality would be, and a retail customer, which would be the residential user, and how the usage/credit would appear on the billing.

There was discussion about how energy is stored in a larger solar array, such as what would be on the landfill and how it would be eventually converted back to the grid as usable power.

J. Branagan gave a PowerPoint presentation which included information about ReVision Energy and a conceptual scheme for a solar array on the landfill.

Other Town-owned buildings were discussed for the potential of rooftop arrays.

J. Branagan presented different options for financing and operating the solar array noting the Town could be the owner/operator or they could lease the land to a private vendor. The ability to obtain electricity for Municipal use from an array if the land were leased could be a part of any contract. There was also discussion about a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) arrangement could be considered as well.

There was discussion about usually equipment warranties, return on investment (ROI) costs and life expectancy of the solar equipment. It was noted that the usual performance is 25% years, with a 90% efficiency rating. It was noted that the break even ROI on the recently installed array on the salt shed was seven (7) years. However, the ROI on a landfill solar array had to many unknowns and variables to give an estimated ROI at this point.

There was discussion on HB315 related to municipal electricity aggregation and the costs and benefits to a community. There was additional discussion regarding the possibility of a town-operated solar array and whether or not it could benefit residents. It is not yet known if municipalities with solar arrays will be able to provide electricity directly to the residents.

There was discussion regarding next steps to move forward with a landfill solar array and possible financing options such as ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act of 2021) funds. It was suggested that the next step would be to put together an RFI (Request for Information) or RFP (Request for Proposals) for the project.

Agenda Item 4: Old Business

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

Agenda Item #5: New Business

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

There were no additional matters before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss
Administrative Assistant