



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

**ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
January 05, 2022**

**Call to Order:** 5:07 p.m.

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

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

**Agenda Item 2: Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Review of the minutes of the September 1, 2021 meeting were deferred to the next meeting.

**Agenda Item 3: Discussion with Rob Greer, Encore Renewable Energy: Landfill Solar**

Rob Greer, Encore Renewable Energy (ERE), and Eric Steinhauser, Sanborn, Head & Associates (SHA), were present for a discussion.

D. Voss offered that SHA were the engineering consultants that assisted the Town with the repairs to the landfill cover and ERE were working on a landfill array with the Town of Derry, NH.

T. Moore noted that the Town had been talking about a solar array on the capped landfill for many years but decided to defer any action until there were needed repairs done to the cover. Those repairs were completed in September 2021. He added that the site seemed to be well suited for a solar array as there are high tension power lines already there for easy access. Now that the cover has been repaired, the EComm is again focused on gathering information regarding a solar array.

R. Greer went through a PowerPoint presentation prepared for the EComm that covered what Encore provides for services as well as an overview of the potential for a solar array on the landfill. There was a list of the most commonly asked questions and answers along with information about pending legislation and net metering.

G. Taillon asked what sized site would be necessary, all conditions perfect, to accommodate a solar array that could produce 5MW.

R. Greer replied that it would be +/- 15 Ac.

There was discussion about the capped landfill, it's construction and the recent repairs, and whether an array could go on the landfill without damaging the cap.

E. Steinhauser offered that while there could still be some minor settling of the cap, the array doesn't perforate the cap, so there is no impact expected.

R. Greer noted that there would be tubes of concrete to support the array, but there is no drilling into the cap.

J. DeRoche asked about the continued settling of the cap.

R. Greer replied that most of the settling occurs in the first few years that a landfill is capped.

E. Steinhauser added that loading could eventually cause depressions but that would be a gradual process. He offered that the cap would be monitored, and adjustments made when necessary to make sure water is continually shed off the cap. He also noted that the concrete structures would be a smaller footprint and would not impact the drainage. Mr. Steinhauser noted that the Town would still have to maintain compliance with the State Solid Waste Permit requirements. He noted that there would be a number of permits involved in the process of installing a solar array and that would be the role that his company would assist the Town with if that's the chosen course.

P. Bealo asked if there was a possibility to harvest the methane gas the decaying trash was producing.

E. Steinhauser responded that considering the size and age of the landfill, most likely not. He added that the costs of extraction would likely far outweigh any potential yield.

There was discussion about access, maintenance, warranties and how the power could be used. It was noted that the landfill would likely be in the 2-3MW production category.

There was discussion regarding whether electricity that was produced over what was need to for the Town buildings could be banked or offered to the residents. There was also discussion regarding the leasing of the fields to a private vendor versus the Town owning the array. It was noted that there are pluses and minuses to both. It was noted that there are fewer financial opportunities and/or grants available to private operators. It was also noted that the school district is considered its own municipality and therefore had to be considered separate from the Town.

T. Moore noted that they were still looking into Community Power as an aggregate opportunity for the residents. He also noted that the Plaistow Public Library had opted into aggregation through Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) and have seen a reasonable reduction in energy bills.

R. Greer offered that he could do a more detailed analysis of the Town's landfill for the solar array but would need additional information. It was noted that he should work with D. Voss to obtain any information that would be helpful.

It was asked if the solar array materials were made in the United States and if they had any supply chain issues. R. Greer noted that there have been some supply chain issues and that it was rare for any product of this type to be 100% American made.

R. Greer will work with D. Voss and when he has additional information will be scheduled for a future EComm meeting.

**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 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss  
Administrative Assistant