



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

ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 1, 2023

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Tim Moore, *Chair*
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair, absent*
Geoffrey Adams, *absent*
Peter Bealo
Jon Gifford, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio*

Also present: Cab Vinton, *Plaistow Public Library Director (arrived 5:55pm)*, Dee Voss, *Planning Department Administrative Assistant*

It was noted that the Board of Selectmen had not yet approved P. Bealo's reappointment, so he was not able to vote at this meeting.

Agenda Item 2: Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

★ P. Bealo moved, second by J. Gifford to approve the minutes of April 6, 2022, and December 7, 2022, as written. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 3-0-0 U/A.

Agenda Item 3: Discussion on Community Power

Ryan Polson and Devon Atwell, from Standard Power, were presented for the discussion.

T. Moore gave a summary of all the projects the Energy Committee (EComm) had been involved in over the past few years. He noted that Community Power and a solar array on the Town's landfill have been the focus for this year.

T. Moore explained that there had been a Town vote that gave the Board of Selectmen (BOS) the authority to begin looking into Community Power, but that's as far as the process has gone.

There was discussion on some of the recent legislation and how it has impacted Community Power.

R. Polson and D. Atwell gave a Power Point presentation on Community Power noting the following:

- The history of Standard Power and its involvement in assisting New Hampshire communities
- An explanation of what Community Power is and how competitive pricing is
- Historical information on how municipal electricity has priced compared to the usual electrical service providers
- Local Renewal Market options

- Additional benefits such as local control, consumer protection, energy planning, innovative local programs, and education/awareness
- Different Community Power program/product options
- Community Outreach, surveys, etc.
- Opt-in, and opt-out options for consumers and the ability to freely switch
- Timeline to implement the Community Power program

It was noted that even those residents who are receiving assistance can still participate in Community Power and they will not lose their assistance benefits. However, participation by those with solar is a bit more complicated.

The different product options such as Standard/Default, Basic and 50%-100% Renewable were discussed.

There was discussion of Renewable Energy Credits (REC) and what Federal tax credits are available for these types of programs. There was also discussion about the risk to the Town for providing a Community Power program. It was noted that the supplies are the ones to assume all risks, not the residents.

There was discussion regarding the next steps for implementation. The next step needed is the formation of a Community Power Subcommittee, which has to be done by the BOS. Standard Power will work with that subcommittee to get through the process, at no cost to the Town and under no obligation to continue with Standard Power once the program is fully implemented. The estimated timeline to full implementation is 1-2 years.

Agenda Item 4: Old Business

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

Agenda Item 5: New Business

Member Renewals

It was noted that Gerry Marchand's term will expire at the end of March 2023, and he will need to be reappointed by the BOS. That recommendation will be discussed at the next meeting.

There were no additional matters before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss
Administrative Assistant