



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

*Approved with amendment pg.2 – dmv  
(see 11/06/19 minutes for change)*

**ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**October 2, 2019**

**Call to Order:** 5:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Tim Moore, *Chair*  
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair*  
Geoffrey Adams  
Maxann Dobson  
Julian Kiszka, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio*  
Peter Bealo, *Alternate*  
Francine Hart, *Alternate Selectmen's Ex-Officio*

Also present were: Mark Pearson, *Town Manager (arrived 5:57 pm)*, Dee Voss, *Planning Department Administrative Assistant*, Cab Vinton, *Plaistow Public Library Director (arrived 5:11 pm)*; and Sam Cafiso, *LED Streetlight Subcommittee Member*

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

September 4, 2019 Minutes

**★ G. Marchand moved, second by G. Adams, to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2019 meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 4-0-1 (Dobson abstaining)**

**Agenda Item 3: LED Streetlight Project**

It was noted that some EComm members had met with John Branagan from Affinity LED Lighting to look at the GIS mapping for the LED streetlight conversion. They reviewed where lights are and are not located, discussed where lights could be eliminated and the process to do so, as well as lowered the lumens of some lights. It was noted that there is a process and a cost involved with eliminating some lights. Negotiating with Unifil for the removal of lights is not part of the current contract and the Town will need to weigh those options separately from the conversion project.

It was also noted that Mr. Branagan had offered that he could provide educational materials that could be used on the website and social media to help residents understand the difference in the lighting that they would experience once the conversion was completed.

Also noted was that Affinity would be doing the conversion of state-owned streetlights at the same time as the Plaistow project, which will make this project look larger and more complete.

*C. Vinton arrived at 5:11 p.m.*

There was discussion of how to deal with perceptions that residents might have of the new lights as well as requests for new lights.

F. Hart suggested that they might be borrowing trouble and that there may not be any issues with the installation.

J. Kiszka responded that this was the time to think about the possibilities and anticipate issues in order to have a solution ready.

There was also discussion about making sure that the Planning Board's regulations were updated for LED streetlights as far as the type of fixtures and placement on a new subdivision. It was suggested that the regulations be updated to specifically name Affinity's product is what must be used. It was questioned if the Town could name a specific vendor or if it had to be phrased as "or compatible model."

S. Cafiso suggested that unless there a large number of lights to be removed it may not be worth the cost to remove them. He added that he wasn't recommending that they just be turned off, noting that it would be his preference that all mid-block lights would be eliminated. ~~He noted that if there are a large number of lights to be eliminated it might not be cost effective to do so.~~

There was discussion about how to handle future requests for additional streetlighting. It was noted that the current process was to make the request to the Highway Safety Committee (HSC), who would then make a recommendation, either way, to the Board of Selectmen who would ultimately make the decision regarding any new streetlights.

S. Cafiso offered that there were a couple of requests for additional lights recently before the HSC that were put on hold until the conversion was complete.

There was discussion about the possibility of stocking streetlight supplies that could be sold to developers proposing new subdivisions or directing them to Affinity for supplies.

There was discussion about the four (4) new street lights and flashers in front of Pollard school and whether or not they were on the Town's bill or being metered. It was noted that they were not included in the streetlight conversion contract. D. Voss will ask Affinity what the cost would be to replace those lights as part of the project.

#### **Agenda Item 4: RFP for Town Hall LED Lighting (Energy Audit Subcommittee)**

It was noted that three (3) proposals had been received by the deadline:

- Councilman Electric – the format was as an estimate, not a bid and there was no information about potential rebates
- Affinity LED Lighting
- SLS Energy Solutions – Two (2) bids were submitted

It was noted that the proposals had not yet been reviewed for comparison as they were differently formatted, which made analysis challenging.

F. Hart volunteered to review the proposals and report back to the EComm.

## **Agenda Item 5: Energy CIP**

T. Moore noted that he had spoken with Finance Director, Greg Colby, and there was between \$45-\$50,000 in the Energy Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). He noted that this amount should be sufficient to pay for the Town Hall interior LED lighting conversion.

T. Moore noted that when the information regarding the proposals was available he would plug everything into the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and update everything.

T. Moore also noted that the CIP Committee had met for its final time in September and it's now down to plugging in updated data to finish off the process.

## **Agenda Item 6: Subcommittee Reports**

### Buildings Energy Subcommittee

M. Dobson noted that the Public Works Building Committee had a meeting scheduled, but they did not have a quorum to hold the meeting.

### Alternative Vehicle Fuels Subcommittee

There was discussion about the possibility of installing underground conduit for the potential of having charging stations for electric vehicles in the future.

*M. Pearson arrived 5:57 p.m.*

J. Kiszka noted that the time to install the conduit for future use, even if it's capped at both ends, would be before the pavement is installed.

C. Vinton offered that the Library had looked into charging stations, but Unitil has not worked out a billing process for them and the Library wasn't interested in being the test case.

G. Marchand added that there were already discussions about underground lines for electric when the salt shed is built to connect its proposed solar panels to the main building.

There was discussion about how much need there was for charging stations at municipal buildings. It was noted that most people who would visit the Library, or other municipal buildings, would not be there for long enough periods of time to need to charge their vehicles.

J. Kiszka noted that if there were charging stations at the new Public Works Facility they would be for town-owned vehicles. He also noted that it would be important that any charging station location did not interfere with the public works functions.

There was discussion about what town-used vehicles could be converted to electric. Examples like the Building Inspector's and Building Maintenance Department trucks were noted.

J. Kiszka offered that New Hampshire is behind the curve when it comes to regulations of electric vehicles. He added that all major car manufacturers have an electric model in their lines.

P. Bealo suggested that a charging station wasn't necessary at the Library, as it was visited mostly by local residents.

S. Cafiso noted that the charging convenience could be sold.

J. Kiszka added that perhaps they wouldn't be fully charging their vehicles at the Library, but more like topping off.

There was additional discussion about charging stations for future town-owned electric vehicles and taking advantage of the opportunity to install the infrastructure at the Public Works Facility before the site is paved.

T. Moore noted that there are three (3) types of charging needs, a 24-hour charge; an overnight charge, and a 3-4-hour charge. The overnight being the most common charging. He suggested that it wasn't necessary to provide general charging to the public.

S. Cafiso asked if every (electric) vehicle took the same plug.

T. Moore responded that there was a standard plug, noting the Tesla may be an exception. He added that it wouldn't be practical for use by the Fire and Highway Departments

T. Moore offered that it was there was a difference in investing in technology to "be green" and investing for an anticipated return on investment (ROI) that would be a cost savings. He suggested that the Town see where the technology progresses and then look towards including electric options in the CIP.

There was additional discussion about progresses in technology. It was noted that the smaller the town the more practical it was to convert to alternate power supplies.

M. Pearson noted that the Town owns a backhoe and it wouldn't take much effort to trench out for conduit for a future charging station. He added that there were already vacant pipes underground that he purposefully had installed in case there was a need for extra fixtures.

M. Pearson offered that he had dimensions of the salt shed building that he has been working with that would accommodate solar panels. He said that the same specs would be used for an Request for Proposals (RFP) for the construction of the salt shed. Once there were budget numbers available a Warrant Article will be drawn up for the 2020 Town Meeting vote.

J. Kiszka offered that another reason to offer charging stations is that people will hang in the neighborhoods, and visit commercial businesses while their vehicles are charging.

There was discussion regarding expanding the subcommittee. There was discussion about a subcommittee to the subcommittee to specifically look at electric vehicles. But it was decided to leave the current subcommittee as is.

J. Kiszka offered that his wife Barbara had been working with him on some of the research and was interested in the subcommittee.

G. Marchand offered that he would like to be on the subcommittee as well.

It was noted that J. Kiszka will now be the chair of the subcommittee.

D. Voss noted that there was already information about subcommittee membership on the website. She would see about having it added to the cable scroll.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Old Business**

There was no old business before the EComm at this meeting.

#### **Agenda Item 8: New Business**

There was no additional new business for this meeting.

There were no additional matters before the Committee and the meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:  
Dee Voss, Administrative Assistant