



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

ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
February 5, 2020

Call to Order: 5:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Tim Moore, *Chair*
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair*
Geoffrey Adams, *excused*
Maxann Dobson, *excused*
Julian Kiszka, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio, absent*
Peter Bealo, *Alternate, arrived 5:50 pm*
Francine Hart, *Alternate Selectmen's Ex-Officio*

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

Agenda Item 2: Review/Approval of Minutes

December 4, 2019 Minutes

★ F. Hart moved, second by G. Marchand, to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2019 meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 3-0-0 U/A

Agenda Item 3: LED Streetlighting Conversion - Update

D. Voss explained that all rebates had been confirmed and the service agreement with Unitil had been signed. The LED Streetlight installation will begin the next Monday.

Agenda Item 4: Town Hall LED Lighting Conversion – Update

D. Voss noted that a draft contract had been received, however, there were changes that were needed. The contract was also being held pending the successful start of the LED Streetlighting project.

Now that the streetlight project is underway and as soon as the contract details can be worked out and signed, the project will be scheduled.

There was discussion about scheduling the Lighting Audit of the Safety Complex. Affinity LED Lighting has offered to do the audit for free. It was noted that this would be a lighting audit only, not a full energy audit.

Agenda Item 5: Energy CIP

T. Moore had prepared a spreadsheet for the Energy CIP. The Committee went over the listed items.

It was noted that Paul Lucia, Building Maintenance Supervisor, was working on installing weather stripping and plexiglass panels over the windows in the Historical Society Building (Museum). The approved amount for that work was capped at \$1,000, but may not cover all the windows. It was noted that other projects at the Museum may not be cost effective or give a reasonable return on investment (ROI).

There was discussion about the insulation at the Town Hall and the Library, which was previously discussed and being done as a bundled project. It was noted that costs were high and ROI low where pricing was provided.

C. Vinton reminded that he had done some research and would re-send the spreadsheet with all the information he had gathered.

It was noted that the potential solar array on the landfill was on hold. There was discussion about the net-metering cap that was the major factor preventing the project, but it was also noted that there are issues with the cap itself and the need for repairs in the not-to-distant future. It was offered that the cap will need to be repaired regardless of any plans for a solar array.

T. Moore offered some updates on pending legislation on some energy bills before the New Hampshire Legislature, including those on net metering, that he was monitoring.

C. Vinton suggested the EComm consider sending letters to State Representatives to support legislation that would increase the net metering.

There was a brief discussion of some of the costs involved in repairing the landfill cap and how long it was expected the repairs would last.

F. Hart noted that there was a meeting regarding the disposition of the District Court House (14 Elm Street), as the State was pulling the Court. There has been discussion regarding possible re-use or potential sale of the building. It was noted that if the building were to be re-used it would have to comply with handicap-accessibility requirements, which it currently does not.

Other projects listed in the Energy CIP were a thermal audit of the Fire Station, misc. non-LED inventory and replacement, alternate fueled vehicles and an energy fair.

There was discussion regarding infrastructure (charging stations) for electric vehicles and which vehicles it would make sense to change over to electric when the time came to replace them.

There was discussion regarding whether to reach out the Timberlane Schools again regarding an energy fair. It was discussed that the YMCA might be a better organization to partner with for an energy fair, while still inviting the school to participate.

Agenda Item 6: Subcommittee Reports

Previously discussed, no additional information

Agenda Item 7: Old Business

There was no old business discussed at this meeting

Agenda Item 8: New Business

F. Hart offered that she had learned about solar composting trash barrels that were being used in Florida. She noted that the bins were labeled for composting and it was done as an honor system as to people putting the proper items in the bin.

There was discussion about issues with recycling, its effectiveness and the low participation rates. The Trash Recycling Advisory Committee (TRAC) is looking at the issue.

Energy Aggregation

F. Hart reminded that the Taylor Electric Aggregation contract expires in May 2020.

There was discussion about options including contracting Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) to see if/when there might be an opportunity to join their aggregation program.

P. Bealo arrived at 5:50 p.m.

C. Vinton noted that the Library had been able to join the RPC electric aggregation program, which was currently being provided by Constellation Electric. He also noted that he had been discussing natural gas aggregation with Sprague Energy for the Library.

It was noted that the Town is still under a natural gas aggregation contract until May of 2021, but that possibilities should be explored for the eventuality of that contract's expiration.

C. Vinton offered to provide additional research to the EComm, including asking RPC if they are considering a natural gas aggregation.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss
Administrative Assistant