



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

**ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 7, 2020**

Call to Order: 5:05 p.m.

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

Also present were: Dee Voss, *Planning Department Administrative Assistant*, Francine Hart, *Board of Selectmen Chair*, Cab Vinton, *Plaistow Public Library Director*, and Sam Cafiso, *LED Streetlight Subcommittee Member*.

Agenda Item 2: Review/Approval of Minutes

September 2, 2020 Minutes

★ ***J. Kiszka moved, second by P. Bealo, to approve the minutes of the September 2, 2020 meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 3-0-1 (Bealo abstaining)***

Agenda Item 3: Current Projects Updates

Town Hall LED Lighting Conversion

D. Voss noted that the installation of the Town Hall LED lights will start the following week (10/14) and will take about three (3) days to complete. Many of the lights will have smart controls will allow for the customization of the lighting. The Unitil rebate has been confirmed. It was also noted that the four (4) so-called "Safe Routes to Schools" streetlights will also be replaced as part of this project.

Salt Shed Solar Panels

T. Moore reported that the Board of Selectmen (BOS) did not accept either proposal for solar panels on the new salt shed at the Public Works Garage. He suggested that perhaps there needed to be another Request for Proposals (RFP) created with different criteria, with the potential to add on as funds become available.

He noted that at the last Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) meeting there was a discussion with Henry Herndon, Director, Local Energy Solutions for Clean Energy NH (formerly New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association (NHSEA) regarding electric aggregation for residents. Mr. Herndon will be at the BOS meeting on October 19, 2020 to make a presentation and the EComm is invited to attend.

J. Kiszka offered that he spoke with Mr. Herndon about of Clean Energy NH. Membership costs \$250.00/year. Services include project guidance and mentoring as well as attendance at Energy Committee meetings to discuss what's happening in the energy field and how Plaistow could benefit.

J. Kiszka suggested that the Town join for a year to see if it's worth the \$250.00 and if it's not then they didn't have to continue with membership.

★P. Bealo moved, second by J. Kiszka, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the Town become members of Clean Energy NH for one year at the cost of \$250. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 4-0-0 U/A.

T. Moore suggested holding off on the solar array for the salt shed until more comprehensive plans are developed. He added it might be worth investigating added a solar array on the landfill at the same time.

F. Hart offered that the Town will be making repairs to the landfill cap over the next 2-3 years, she added that we may not want to delay solar panels on the salt shed that long.

C. Vinton questioned what the deficiency was with the RFP.

J. Kiszka explained that only two (2) proposals were received, which H. Herndon said was unusual. He added that there may be a change in the scope of the project with more flexibility in the RFP.

F. hart offered that the BOS were looking for the solar panels to be able to provide enough electricity for the Public Works Garage.

J. Kiszka added that they also talked about the panels being expandable.

There was discussion about the current electric bills for the Public Works Garage and how they seemed high for a new building.

T. Moore suggested that the project be advertised as a "demonstration project" and that would give the ability to monitor the usage and payback over time. Monitoring for 3-4 years may be enough time that it would be feasible to combine it with an array on the landfill.

J. Kiszka added that it would be beneficial to get a baseline so there would be real numbers to report to the voters. He noted that a plan with facts was needed to get the community to invest.

Agenda Item 4: LED Streetlighting – The Next Steps

D. Voss noted that the EComm had talked about doing a survey of the streetlights once the new LED ones were installed. The intent would be to see where there was inadequate or excessive lighting coverage to decide if there were any recommendations on any lights that could be relocated, deleted or added. There had also been discussion about developing a protocol to recommend to the BOS for when new street lights are requested by residents and/or to the Planning Board for new subdivisions.

There was discussion about the current process, which is when a resident is looking for an additional street light, they bring it to the Highway Safety Committee (HSC) who nearly always recommends the new light to the BOS.

C. Vinton suggested asking other towns if they have a template for a policy.

P. Bealo offered to post the question on the PlanLink list-serv.

There was discussion about what to do about the existing streetlights and it was decided to leave well enough alone at this point as there were no real complaints about the new lights. It was noted that D. Voss had received a request for a new street light, but HSC had not been meeting to discuss it.

There was discussion about the role of the HSC. T. Moore offered that it may be in the RSAs that there needs to be a chartered Highway Safety Committee in order for a community to receive the Highway Block Grant. It was suggested that the existing Planning Board Subdivision/Site Plan Regulations could be used for the criteria to make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Agenda Item 5: Project Review

New Project (from Audit) and CIP Update

T. Moore, noting that there was nothing urgent on the list, suggested this item be deferred until the discussion with Henry Herndon.

Agenda Item 6: Old Business

Previously discussed, no additional information

Agenda Item 7: New Business

CIP Update

T. Moore suggested that there be a recommendation that \$15,000 be put into a Warrant Article request to replenish what will be spent out of the Energy Capital Reserve Fund in 2020.

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss
Administrative Assistant