



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

RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 @ 5:00 pm

PRESENT: Julian Kiszka, Chairman; Geoffrey Adams, Vice Chairman; Tim Moore, Planning Board; Gerry Marchand, Greg Jones, Town Planner; Sean Fitzgerald, Town Manager; and Beth Hossack, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Tony Costanzo, Jake Kennedy

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:05 PM

Introductions are made. Gerry Marchand is here and is interested in becoming a member of this committee.

Motion by S. Fitzgerald to approve the minutes of 2/17/16. Second by G. Adams.

Vote: all in favor.

Motion passes.

S. Fitzgerald mentions that the passing of the Solar Exemption shows that the Town of Plaistow is serious in becoming a Cleaner & Greener Town. We are also working on updating all of the Town's streetlights to LED fixtures which will reduce electrical usage and save the Town money. We hope to help other Towns in New Hampshire do the same.

G. Jones explains to D. Clapp the resistance until is giving the Town of Plaistow because we are interested in purchasing the streetlights and converting them to LED fixtures. D. Clapp may have a colleague who can help the Town pursue this goal.

PRESENTATION:

Dan Clapp, NH General Manager of ReVision Energy, and Ed LaPore and Gerry Kantor of Ameresco, Inc are all in attendance to discuss net metering and respond to the committee's general questions regarding solar energy.

D. Clapp begins by discussing his opinion of net metering. He states net metering is not a subsidy. Dan shows slides outlining the production and storage of electricity and how electricity is passed on to users. His diagram shows older methods and new methods including solar power. He feels solar power will save money in the long term. Net metering really benefits the utility companies by allowing them to buy the excess power produced by homes and businesses with solar panels at whole sale not retail prices. Utility companies do not store this power they pass it on to the next user. The result is the power companies are getting a bargain. Net metering began in 1998 and was an arbitrary figure. Net metering is based on energy produced not on energy sent to the utility company. The cap in New Hampshire is 50 mega watts. Currently, in New Hampshire there are two pending bills dealing with net metering and

with a goal of developing competitive markets and customer choice while reducing costs for all customers. These bills are SB333 and HB1116. The Utility Company’s argument for the cap is that those who do not have any solar power will pay increased rates. Power companies just need to change their business model so they can still make money while transitioning to solar and others sources of power. A good company to watch and learn from is Green Mountain Power in Vermont. Discussion ensues.

OTHER BUSINESS:

J. Kiszka mentions the Renewables Committee is not listed on the organizational chart in the Annual Town Report. He also mentions it was not listed as a committee for the Board of Selectmen to choose a representative. However, it was added to the list on Monday evening 3/14/16. J. Kiszka is the Selectmen Representative for 2016 and S. Ranlett is the alternate.

G. Jones stated it may be a good idea to select a “lead” person to do research for certain agenda items requiring a large amount of research. The idea is agreeable to the other committee members.

G. Jones mentions the success the Town had passing the Solar Exemption Warrant Article.

We are still in the phase of gathering information regarding the Street Light Project.

J. Kiszka inquires if Unitil responded to the Towns request for procurement within 30 days was met.

G. Jones states they did respond. Their response is they are planning on establishing a tariff to pay for the conversion of our streetlights. This will have to be approved by the PUC. Therefore, we are still waiting.

G. Adams mentions an article he read in the Eagle Tribune published on 3/12/16. The article details how some solar companies who finance the installation of home panels often put a lien on the homeowner’s house. Homeowners are not always aware of this practice and this can cause a hurdle if the homeowner tries to sell the property.

J. Kiszka would like this article added to the Renewable Energy Committee’s portion of the Town website.

Motion by G. Adams to approve G. Marchand as new member of the Plaistow Renewable Energy Committee. Second by T. Moore.

Vote: all in favor.

Motion passes.

Renewables Committee Action Items				
Action Items	Date	Description	Due Date	Status
1	1/21/16	Street Light Audit		Pending – the BOS approved money but it still needs to be taken from the budget somewhere
2	1/21/16	Committee involved with Safety Expansion Lighting/Heating Systems		Must be approved by the BOS. Sean will recommend it to the BOS.

Motion by T. Moore to adjourn the meeting. Second by G. Adams.

Vote: all in favor.

Motion passes.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:25 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,
Recording Secretary