

Charter for the 2017 Town of Plaistow Energy Committee

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) hereby establishes an ad-hoc committee hereby known as the “Town of Plaistow Energy Committee” which is established to review the efficiency of Plaistow’s current energy operations relative to costs and to the delivery of services to residents.

Purpose:

The purpose of the Town of Plaistow Energy Committee is to determine what ways, if any, Plaistow can reorganize its operations so as to deliver services to residents in a more cost efficient and environmentally conscientious manner.

Membership:

Each member of the Board of Selectmen will appoint a member to the Committee and the composition of the committee shall have a maximum membership of 7 members, including a Selectman representative. Members shall not be paid employees or relatives of employees of the town. The committee shall elect its own chairman and secretary. Ideally, at least three members will have experience in renewable energy including that of municipal government and the private sector.

Attendance:

Energy Committee members are expected to attend all meetings. However, in the event that they are unable to attend a meeting, the Committee’s staff person, the Town Planner, should be contacted in person or by phone by 3:30pm of the day of the meeting so that sufficient coverage for a quorum can be ensured. If connected to the answering system, members should leave their name and status of attendance so that the message can be retrieved in a timely manner.

Any member not leaving such a message and who does not attend the meeting shall be considered unexcused. The unexcused absence of a Committee member from three consecutive meetings or from 65% of all regularly scheduled meetings in a calendar year shall cause the Energy Committee to consider requesting the removal of the member by the Board of Selectmen.

The Chair will have the authority to grant excused absences.

Objectives:

The Committee should:

1. Evaluate the effectiveness of Plaistow’s current energy and renewable energy initiatives relative to best management practices within municipalities of similar size in the region.
2. Consider State and Federal initiatives intended to ‘assist’ municipalities in improving operational efficiency in regards to energy and environmental sustainability, paying attention to any deadlines and time to complete.
3. Consider the direction of technology into the future and its potential to improve Plaistow’s energy and renewable initiatives;
4. Consider those characteristics of Plaistow that enable a renewable initiative.

The Committee may consider practices in other sized communities and in other states, but for practical reasons the focus should be on New Hampshire Municipalities.

Activities:

The Committee may consider doing one or more of the following to assist in achieving its objectives:

- Review the efforts of other communities to implement renewable and other energy conservation projects.
- Conduct site visits to communities that have initiated renewable energy projects.
- Identify the perceived strengths and weaknesses in Plaistow’s energy expenditures by meeting with town boards, committees and commissions as well as department heads.

The Committee shall make quarterly progress reports to the BOS. During its studies, the Committee may seek additional guidance [beyond that of the charter] from the BOS.

Deliverables:

The Committee shall report its finding to the BOS and suggest ways, to improve the efficiency of Town energy operations. The Committee may include more than one alternative for the Board’s consideration. For any suggestions, the Committee shall include pros and cons. The Committee may include cost-benefit analysis and time constraints.