



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

ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES
August 7, 2019

Call to Order: 5:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Tim Moore, *Chair*
Gerry Marchand, *Vice Chair*, arrived 5:38 pm
Geoffrey Adams, *absent*
Maxann Dobson
Julian Kiszka, *Selectmen's Representative*
Peter Bealo, *Alternate*
Francine Hart, *Alternate Selectmen's Representative*

Also present were: Town Manager, Mark Pearson (arrived 5:20 pm) Planning Department Administrative Assistant; Cab Vinton, Plaistow Public Library Director; and Sam Cafiso, LED Streetlight Subcommittee Member

★ P. Bealo was appointed as a voting member

Agenda Item 2: Review/Approval of Minutes

June 5, 2019 Minutes

★ P. Bealo moved, second by M. Dobson, to approve the minutes of the June 5, 2019 meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 4-0-0 U/A.

Agenda Item 3: LED Streetlight Project – Affinity LED Lighting, LLC

It was note that an update had been received from Affinity and distributed to the Committee. There were a number of questions regarding the status of the project including:

- State-owned Lights? It's pretty clear that the State has lights that they pay for on Route 125 and Route 121A, but there are also State Roads in Plaistow that are more of a "gray area" such as Kingston Rd, Elm St and Sweet Hill Rd where who owns the lights isn't as clear. Will that be addressed in the audit and mapping?
- What lighting standards are being applied to the new streetlights? Is there any room for the Town to adjust within those standards?
- What details will the final GIS mapping include?
- It was noted that materials to build the lights have been ordered. Members have concern that supplies have been ordered but they haven't yet seen, or had input on a plan or details for the new lighting
- Acknowledging that the contract allows until December 31, but also noting Steve's comment that the target is September 30, are things still on track for that timeframe and will that allow EComm members adequate time for review?
- Would someone from Affinity be able to attend the next EComm meeting, which is scheduled for September 4?

M. Pearson arrived at 5:20 p.m.

D. Voss offered to forward the list of questions on to Affinity and send their response out to the EComm when received.

There was discussion regarding a site visit to the Affinity facility in Dover. The dates of August 16 and 23 were proposed and most interested members were available for both. D. Voss will coordinate with Affinity and email the details to the members. She will also coordinate having someone from Affinity at the next meeting for an update.

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

F. Hart noted that the draft Request for Proposal (RFP) recommended by the EComm for the Town Hall LED lighting project, had been hand-delivered to Town Attorney, Sumner Kalman for review. She added that she intended to bring it to the Board of Selectmen at their next meeting and asked if the EComm needed to see it again after that.

T. Moore offered that unless there is a substantial change from what the Committee recommended he didn't see the need to bring it back again.

Agenda Item 5: Energy CIP

T. Moore noted that he was still putting the Energy Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) information together and would have it for the EComm at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 6: Energy Aggregation

It was noted that there were some questions about the Electricity Aggregation program being initiated by the Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC). Information on the program had been gathered from the RPC website and provided to the EComm in their packets.

There were questions about the timelines in the information from the website. It was noted that the date for the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had already passed and questioned if it was still possible to join once the Taylor contract ends. Any additional questions about the project should be forwarded to T. Moore and he will address them with RPC.

It was noted that a letter terminating the third-party electricity provider contract with Taylor Consulting and Contracting, Inc (Taylor) had been signed by the Town Manager. Terminating the contract allows the Town more flexibility to explore other options for electricity providers, even if the Town decides not to join the RPC Aggregation.

C. Vinton explained that the Library had already signed up with RPC and he would be happy to report back to the EComm on their experience with the program once it starts in November. He added that the sign up process had been smooth thus far.

Agenda Item 7: Subcommittee Reports

Buildings Energy Subcommittee

M. Dobson noted that she had been discussion solar options regarding the proposed salt shed and what is the best overall route for the Town to take.

C. Vinton asked if all town-owned buildings were billed out separately. It was noted that they are.

M. Pearson added that a lot depends on the net metering process.

M. Dobson noted that she had also had some discussion with a vendor regarding a solar installation on the landfill cap.

J. Kiszka asked what the status of the landfill cap was.

M. Pearson explained that the Town is under a New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) mandate to maintain the landfill cap. He added that the cap is showing some issues with ponding and eventually will need additional stabilization. M. Pearson noted that Normandeau Associates has been the agency that has assisted the Town in monitoring the landfill cap and he has been discussing the matter with them to know how to budget for the costs in the future.

C. Vinton suggested that it might be cost effective to pay for a study to at least know what kind of funding will be needed.

T. Moore added that continuing to use Normandeau's services made sense cost-wise as they are already well familiar with the landfill cap.

M. Pearson suggested that the cost for repairing the cap could be part of any solar contract that might be negotiated.

M. Dobson added that the Town could rent the landfill cap to a vendor who wanted to install solar.

S. Cafiso added that knowing the costs of engineering and repair would be good for any negotiations.

G. Marchand arrived at 5:38 p.m.

M. Dobson offered to forward her vendors contact information to D. Voss to be invited to attend the September 4, 2019 meeting for a discussion with the EComm on solar options.

Alternative Vehicle Fuels Subcommittee

Nothing to report at this time

Agenda Item 8: Old Business

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

Agenda Item 9: 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 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:
Dee Voss, Administrative Assistant