



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

**ENERGY COMMITTEE/COMMITTEE POWER COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 18, 2023**

Call to Order: 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Tim Moore, *EComm Chair & Community Power Committee (CPC)*
Peter Bealo, *EComm Vice Chair and CPC*
Gerry Marchand, *EComm and CPC*
Walter Proctor, *EComm and CPC*
Liz Kosta, *CPC, excused*
Jon Gifford, *Selectmen's Ex-Officio*

Also present: Ryan Polson, *Standard Power (Community Power)*; and Dee Voss, *Planning Department Administrative Assistant*

Agenda Item 2: Minutes

P. Bealo moved, second by J. Gifford, to approve the minutes from the October 4, 2023, Community Power Meeting. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 5-0-0 U/A.

Agenda Item 3: Landfill Solar

It was noted that L. Kosta was working with Matt Kennedy from Walden Renewables to arrange a site walk at one of their solar fields in Maine.

Agenda Item 4: Community Power Update – Ryan Polson, Standard Power

Ryan Polson, Standard Power, was present for the discussion.

R. Polson noted that they would be on the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting on October 30, 2023, to seek approval of the Plaistow Community Power Plan (PCPP) so that it could be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC). He added that he did not anticipate any issues with application. R. Polson offered that once the submission was made there wasn't much more to do until the PUC approves it.

R. Polson offered that they could start requesting pricing information in the spring, which is one of the better times to survey the market.

Agenda Item 5: Municipal Buildings Solar RFP

R. Polson stayed for the discussion of solar projects.

The EComm discussed the response to the recent Request for Proposals (RFP) that was posted to get information on the viability of rooftop solar arrays on several municipal buildings. It was noted that there was only a single response (Ace Solar, North Andover, MA) to the RFP.

There was a discussion on the landfill solar, which was not part of the RFP for the municipal buildings.

R. Polson noted four (4) options available to the Town for a large solar array on Town property.

1. Traditional Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) – developer retains all benefits
2. Traditional PPA with tax credits
3. Bond the project
4. Land Lease with Town having first benefits of rights to power

R. Polson offered to have that Bob Hayden of Standard Power was their person to explain solar project and that he would see if he was available for the next meeting.

The EComm went through the submitted proposal noting the costs for each municipal structure. The Town Hall was the only building not included in the RFP. It was noted that it unclear if the viability of each structure was investigated for the submission. D. Voss noted that no one had reached out to her regarding access to any of the buildings, so it was assumed that the structures had not been checked by the company who submitted the proposal. It was further noted that snow loads would also need to be considered in addition to the solar panels, each weighing +/-64 pounds.

There was discussion of the listed payback for each of the buildings in the proposal and whether they were reasonable.

T. Moore suggested, considering the costs and the paybacks it might make the best sense to start with the Plaistow Museum (127 Main St) and the Town Hall Annex (14 Elm St).

There was discussion on the solar panels and how direction, and time of year can impact their output and impact the payback periods.

It was noted that there was approximately \$34,000 in the Energy Capital Reserve Fund (2022 Town Report) and that did not include the additional \$25,000 that was added at Town Meeting in March of 2023, so there would not be a lot of matching funds available to fund the property and would probably require a vote at Town Meeting for the additional funds needed. It was also noted that it was unclear if the Library Trustees would approve solar panels on the Library's roof.

There was additional discussion of potential costs, paybacks, and the viability of some of the buildings. It was mentioned that the Public Works Garage site might be a suitable location for a ground mounted solar array. The Plaistow Area Sport Complex (PARC) was discussed as a potential location, but there was concern expressed about damage that could be caused to the panels by an errant baseball. It was suggested that B. Hayden would be the best resource to answer some of the EComm's questions. R. Polson will reach out to him and see if he is available for the next meeting and then confirm with D. Voss.

Agenda Item 6: Old Business

There was no old business before the EComm/PCPC

Agenda Item 7: New Business

It was noted that at the last meeting there was a quorum on PCPC members, but not EComm members, as L. Kosta is not on both committees. D. Voss noted that she had asked L. Kosta if she would be interested in being an alternate on the EComm, and she agreed.

P. Bealo moved, second by G. Marchand, to recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Liz Kosta be appointed as an alternate member of the Energy Committee. There was no discussion on the motion. The vote was 5-0-0 U/A.

Agenda Item 6: Correspondence, Other Business

There was no additional business before the EComm/PCPC, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:05PM

Respectfully Submitted:

Dee Voss
Administrative Assistant