



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

**RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**MEETING DATE:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 @ 5:00 pm

**PRESENT:** Selectman, Julian Kiszka; Tim Moore, Planning Board; Geoffrey Adams, Planning Board; Greg Jones, Town Planner; Mike Dorman, Building Inspector; Beth Hossack, Administrative Assistant and guest attendee Chief John McArdle

**EXCUSED:** Cab Vinton, Sean Fitzgerald

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 5:00 PM

**RGS ENERGY** a solar begins with a presentation of their company led by Tom Champlin, Regional Sales Manager. RGS Energy was founded in 1978 and they provide solar energy systems for residential and some small commercial properties. Tom discusses the company's background, net metering, site suggestions and shading requirements. His company has a longer presentation of Solar Power & Safety Awareness for Emergency Responders that he would be happy to present at a future meeting.

J. McArdle inquires if solar cells can be shut off.

T. Champlin responds it depends on the system. Newer systems can be shut off but many older ones cannot be.

J. McArdle inquires as to whether a roof with solar panels can be opened for ventilation during a fire.

T. Champlin states solar panels are put on the south side so the north side can be opened for ventilation. He also mentions the set back would be discussed and agreed upon prior to any installations done by their company. If we were to do business with them they would provide a list of common practices. Disconnects are placed on the exterior of buildings and the rules are determined by the utility company not the solar company.

**REVISION ENERGY** another solar company gives a presentation led by Jack Ruderman. The company is located in Brentwood, NH on route 125 and they install solar systems for commercial, residential, non-profits, municipalities and schools. They have installed over 5,000 solar systems. The company is very mission driven and has been awarded and recognized several times. For municipalities they will install at no cost to the Town. They operate, maintain, and insure the system. As a company they will receive federal tax credits and it turn sell the power to the Town at lower rates for 20 years.

G. Adams inquires what happens after the 20 years.

J. Ruderman responds the contract can be extended for 10 more years. Also, beginning in year 7 the Town has an option to buy the system.

G. Adams inquires if the Town wants to purchase the system in year 7 or beyond when is the purchase price determine.

J. Ruderman states the purchase price will have to be determined at the time due to IRS regulations.

The expected life time of one of their systems is 40 years.

**SUNRUN** presents next. Sunrun is only residential at this time. They are involved in 15 states and have over 100,000 customers. They have only been providing systems in NH for about 3 ½ months. They run out of several Home Depot's including the one in Plaistow.

J. Kiszka inquires if any of the companies present are willing to put together a symposium and/or forum to provide educational information for our residents. J. Kiszka thinks the focus should be on financial savings and not necessarily going green although they tend to go together with solar energy.

Discussion continues about net metering, federal tax credits, Public Utility Commission, and the process of generating solar energy in conjunction with local utility companies and who and how any benefits work.

***Motion by T. Moore to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015. Second by G. Adams. Discussion ensues and J. Kiszka would like a correction on the sentence regarding two members of the committee using solar power. It is really one member with a second member considering it.***

***Motion by T. Moore to approve the minutes of October 6, 2015 with the noted corrections. Second by G. Adams.***

***Vote: 3-0-0***

***Motion passes.***

***Motion by T. Moore to approve the minutes of October 28, 2015. Second by G. Adams.***

***Vote: 3-0-0***

***Motion passes.***

## **ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

The items are reviewed

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

J. Kiszka inquires about the letter Sean was going to draft to Unitil to inquire about the purchase of the Town's street lights.

G. Jones responds the letter is on Sean's desk waiting for his approval.

Some discussion ensues regarding how street lights are metered.

M. Dorman believes they are a flat rate.

G. Jones has drafted a warrant article for a residential tax credit for the installation of a solar system. Discussion ensues if this is necessary. Currently solar systems are not assessed so if there is no assessment, no tax credit is needed. This drafted warrant article will be discussed at the next meeting.

The committee would like to pick a specific day and time for meetings so they can be added to the general calendar.

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

***Vote: 3-0-0***  
***Motion passes.***

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hossack,  
Recording Secretary