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TOWN OF ORLEANS
TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

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Renewable Energy Committee

March 2, 2010 - Minutes

For Official Use Only

A meeting of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee was called to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Skaket Meeting Room at the Orleans Town Hall by Chair Mary Jane Curran.

Present: Victor Noerdlinger, David Hubbard, Richard Philbrick, Kenneth Rowell, Jim Hungerford, and Chris Galazzi. John Jannell, Planning Dept. Liaison and Paul Rooker, Finance Committee.

Absent: Sims McGrath, BOS Liaison.

1. Mass Energy Insight

John Jannell gave an overview of the Mass Energy Insight Program. It is a software program from the State DOER. It is used to monitor municipal electric and gas energy accounts. The Town energy usage by account for several years can be entered and give an accounting of the money spent and energy used for a given Town. The program will monitor all of the Town energy accounts and give information as to whether usage and costs are going up or down. John hopes to demonstrate the program to Committee at next meeting.

2. Residential Wind Turbines and proposed Zoning Amendment

John J. discussed a proposed change to the Town Zoning Laws with regards to residential wind turbines. The change refers primarily to wind turbines mounted on residential structures. There is a Zoning Board public hearing on March 9 to get public input on the change. The issue is whether to allow the home owner to pursue a special permit for the roof mounted turbines that are higher than current law allows. John J. suggested the Renewable Energy Committee might wish to provide information for the Zoning Board either in support of or against the change. Mary Jane Curran brought up a number of references and incidences which do consider roof mounted wind turbines to be a major problem. This includes problems which will create safety issues with the structure. A motion was proposed by Ken Rowell and seconded by Jim Hungerford. The motion is "The Renewable Energy Committee to advise the Planning Board and other Town Boards about the concerns related to roof mounted, wind driven renewable energy installations". The motion passed 5-0-0.

3. COA Solar Grant

John J. gave the Renewable Energy Committee (REC) an update on the grant award for Solar panels for the Council on Aging building on Rock Harbor Road. The Town was

awarded a grant for \$122,000 plus for the design and installation of the solar panels. The project is fully funded. The project, when complete will supply about 1/3 of the electricity needed for the COA building. John J. also explained that SREC's (Solar REC's) will be priced higher than originally thought so the project will give better results. The current SREC's are higher than current REC's for wind turbines. John Kelly, Town Admin., is awaiting documents on the project.

4. Old Business

John Jannell had sent out handouts via emails which included a copy of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator. Further discussion on avoiding carbon dioxide emissions by the installation of a wind turbine occurred as a follow up to the discussion at last meeting. It is hard to quantify amounts saved that would impress Town residents at this time. It is still an item the Committee needs to address. There are no energy articles for the Town Warrant and the Town Meeting in May.

John Jannell mentioned that the Wind Turbine Project on the watershed is in limbo. Decisions have to be made by both the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners as to how to proceed.

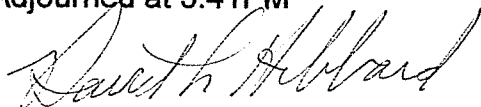
John Jannell gave a quick summary of some items that pertain to the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) and the progress of installation of wind turbines on the Cape.

New Business

Jim Hungerford handed out a sheet showing the typical Sound Pressure Levels and corresponding dB(A) levels for sound starting at 0 dB and going up to 140 dB. Over the next month or so we will "acquire or borrow" a Sound Level Meter and make measurements around town and some of the common locations. It is Jim's intent to also make measurements of some operating wind turbines. MMA would be a good candidate. The results of these measurements could then be presented to our committee and then to others in Town, possibly including the general population in Orleans. Jim suggests that we refer to this topic as Sound Levels not Noise Levels to eliminate the negative connotation.

Approval of minutes for Feb. 16, 2010. 5-0-0.

Adjourned at 5:41PM



David L. Hubbard, Clerk