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## **Renewable Energy Committee**

**December 7, 2010 - Minutes**

For Official Use Only

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

**Present:** Mary Jane Curran, Victor Noerdlinger, David Hubbard, Dick Philbrick, Jim Hungerford; Paul Rooker, Finance Committee liaison.

**Absent:** Chris Galazzi, Sims McGrath, BOS liaison.

**Also present were Tom Byran and Julia Higgins, interested public**

**Energy Reduction Plan** - Mary Jane Curran summarized the Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) for the visitors. There are a lot of questions now as to how to approach the Plan with John Jannell having been transferred to the Conservation position for the Town. How much time and involvement will John be able to make to REC? There is still much to do with the collection of energy data for the Town and keeping track of usage. Committee is eager to continue with the ERP and the collection of Town energy usage. No movement of forming a sub-committee or plans at this time.

**Council on Aging Solar project** - Start work date has been put off until early January. Should not take very long once started. Should make plans for publicity affair when completed.

**Ground Mounted Solar Project** - Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative(CVEC) is working on a project to install ground mounted solar panels on capped landfills in many of the Cape towns. Phase one is in progress with analysis of Towns with capped landfills being reviewed for suitability of ground mounted solar panels. Orleans missed phase one and plans to submit interest during phase two.

Ken Rowell mentioned that there is currently much interest in solar panels. Many home owners have started to install panels on their homes. There are even businesses that are installing "community solar gardens". The community solar gardens is an arrangement where a solar company owns and installs solar panels for a group of home owners and the home owners all benefit from the installation.

Committee members agreed that we should be gathering information on potential alternative energy projects for the Town as well as dispersing such information to the public. The Committee should also encourage the citizens who have installed renewables to give the Committee feedback on success or failure of the installations.

Julia Higgins brought newspaper articles on proposed projects with small wind turbines for roof installation. She also expressed a future concern for increased costs at the transfer station if the SeaMass contract is renewed in 2012 or 2013. Julia thinks that increased recycling should be a goal for the Town. Dave Hubbard mentioned the previous Energy Committee put a draft survey together to hand out to the citizens of Orleans to collect information about their recycling habits. Survey was never finalized for distribution.

There was no new business;

Mary Jane mentioned that the second meeting in Brewster on the town's wind turbine project has been delayed until January. There has been much discussion in Brewster on the noise issue and setbacks from homes. More discussion will take place as the noise issue gets more publicity. There has also been no word on the current status of the Wind Siting Bill.

Dick Philbrick expressed the concept that Cape Cod Bay could be a site for future construction of wind turbines. Dick mentioned that most of the bay is not very deep which would make construction much easier than in deeper water.

Mary Jane mentioned that the Committee year-end report is due by January 7, 2011.

Committee moved to accept the minutes for 10-5-10 with just a spelling correction and the minutes for 11-16-10 as is by 6-0-0 votes.

Dave Hubbard will get a list of meeting dates for 2011 together and send them out for review and comment. Meeting will continue to be the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Next meeting will be on December 21, 2010

Adjourned at 4:54PM

David L. Hubbard, Clerk

## RENEWABLE ENRGY COMMITTEE

In 2010 the Renewable Energy Committee was hard at work on its charge to advance Orleans as a Green Community. In the last year, the Committee completed its review of the Massachusetts Green Communities Program and their Green Community certification requirements.

In October, the Committee hosted a Cape Light Compact meeting of many of the Cape Energy Committees to educate and inform the members of the guidelines to become a Green Community. Guest speakers focused on the "Stretch Code" requirements and the Energy Reduction plan process.

### Energy Efficiency/Energy Use Reduction

The Committee completed an energy audit of the Fire Station and the Council on Aging. Both buildings were found to be in good standing and required no efficiency upgrades. The Committee is now undertaking the task of compiling a Townwide Energy Reduction plan to be presented to the Board of Selectman. The Goal of the plan will be to reduce Orleans' overall energy consumption and use by 20% over a base year. This approach to energy reduction and a successfully endorsed energy reduction plan is a key requirement to obtaining Massachusetts Green Community certification.

### Renewable Energy

One Committee recommendation has progressed on to a renewable energy project thanks to funding from the State. The Committee continues to support the installation of a 15kW solar photovoltaic array on the roof of the Council on Aging. This installation, once completed, will offer a 1/3 reduction in the COA's annual electric bill. The project was 100% funded through the MA Department of Energy Resources. We look forward to its successful commissioning.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jane Curran, Chairman