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Renewable Energy Committee

December 21, 2010 - Minutes

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, Jim Hungerford;
Absent: Chris Galazzi, Sims McGrath, BOS liaison, Paul Rooker, Finance Committee liaison, and John Jannell.

Energy Reduction Plan - Mary Jane Curran opened the meeting by saying she and Ken Rowell had discussed the Energy Reduction Plan(ERP) and possible methods to complete it. Mary Jane encouraged the whole Committee to consider working in one way or another to assist in the completion of the Plan. Mary Jane mentioned that there is an outline that we can use to flesh out as we go along and as we get data.

Committee should use the outline to summarize where we are and then fill out the different areas as possible. We as the REC need to get together and help as we have ideas for sections, take a section to work on, work in sub-groups, or just get together and brainstorm to get ideas and complete portions.

The Town has energy efficient measures in place now and we can expand them as we proceed. Ken Rowell suggested getting together and outlining each section and then fill in as we can. Mary Jane suggested the Committee should proceed with plans to complete by June of 2011.

John Jannell will give support as his new position will allow. This is in assistance in report writing and supplying data from Town. Mary Jane commented that both Andover and Hopkinton had hired a full time Energy Coordinator to write the plan and oversee the implementation of the ERP.

New Business - Year-end Report - Committee discussed the Board of Selectmen (BOS) report due by the end of December. Jim Hungerford asked about including the information gathered by Jim and Ken Rowell on noise levels at the Mass. Maritime Academy and the Camp Edwards wind turbines. It was decided by committee to include several sentences about this work. Ken mentioned that committee should be pro-active on gathering information. The interim report to the BOS was submitted on Sept. 7th. This report centered on the review of the Green Communities Act by the REC. Dave Hubbard made a motion, Ken R. second, to approve the year end report to the BOS with minor comments included about Jim and Ken's study of the wind turbine noise levels. Vote was 5-0-0.

Ken R. also handed out a copy of an article that was in the Cape Cod Times on the challenge by the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative(CVEC) to the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District regarding the placement of wind turbines near Route 6A. The Historic District has refused attempts by several organizations to install wind turbines. Ken mentioned that the Committee should inform the BOS that the Committee supports the plans by CVEC on the challenge. Committee should encourage the BOS and urge them to support it also. It was decided to send John Jannell a memo endorsing the Committee's support for such action by CVEC and ask John to review it. The Committee should then submit the memo to Sims McGrath as the REC's liaison. There has been no information on the status of the Wind Siting Act and where it sits in the process in the Legislature.

Old Business - Update on Council on Aging Solar Project - Mary Jane mentioned that construction at the Council on Aging building has not began. Ken R. expressed interest in knowing when the construction begins so he can take photos of the progress from beginning to end to document the project. Jim H. expressed interest in maybe having a meeting with the Project Manager?

Mary Jane talked about a possibility of having the display case at the Snow Library to exhibit photos and information on renewable projects. Mary Jane will follow up on filling our request to find out what dates may be available. The Committee should begin to collect info and photos on all renewable projects within the Town.

The Committee will contact the Orleans Citizens Forum to explore the possibility of a joint presentation on energy efficiency and the availability of funding to support residential solar installations.

Committee discussed the status of Phase 1 CVEC project to research the usefulness of Cape Cod Towns capped landfills for ground mounted solar panel projects. Currently eight towns have submitted applications/bids. No approvals have been made to date. Orleans missed opportunity for Phase 1 but is considering entering Phase 2 when it becomes available. Data on methods of capping and suitability for ground mounted panels need to be explored on a town by town basis.

Correspondence - NONE

Other Discussion - The date for the Town of Brewster meeting for continuing the discussion on the proposed wind turbines is the 12th of January, 2011 at the Brewster Town Hall, 7:00PM. A suggestion to have John Hodgkinson, Orleans Rep. to Cape Light Compact come to talk with Committee on January 17, 2011 was made.

Minutes of 12/7/10 were approved with minor spelling corrections. Vote 5-0-0.

Meeting planned for January 4th, 2011 is canceled due to members being out of town. Mary Jane will get an outline for the ERP out to members.

Next meeting will be on January 18th, 2011.

Adjourned at 5:15PM