



Renewable Energy Committee
January 25, 2011 - Minutes

A meeting of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee was called to order at 4:03PM in the Skaket Meeting Room at the Orleans Town Hall by Chair Mary Jane Curran.

Present: Mary Jane Curran, Victor Noerdlinger, David Hubbard, Ken Rowell; Dick Philbrick; and Paul Rooker, Finance Committee liaison.

Absent: Chris Galazzi, Jim Hungerford; Sims McGrath, BOS liaison, and John Jannell, Planning liaison.

John Hodgkinson, Cape Light Compact representative was present.

Chair Mary Jane Curran opened meeting by explaining the contents of the packet for the meeting. Mary Jane stated that she and Chris Galazzi had met and put together an Introduction outline for the Energy Reduction Plan. She mentioned that the base year should be 2008 and that the Town already has a 6% energy savings by using 2008. Mary Jane reviewed the outline covering areas that need to be addressed. Mary Jane mentioned that Chris attended a "vision building meeting" at the Orleans Elementary School. Several parents were interested in pursuing energy reduction at the school. Additional solar panels may be an option. The Renewable Energy Committee (REC) will continue to pursue the Town's energy use in buildings and vehicles. John Jannell is currently the only person able to access the Insight program, which records data of the Town's energy use. Ken Rowell and John J. discussed how to access the data. This data provides continuous update of information that reflects how the Town is doing. Mary Jane will join Ken and John to further discuss these issues on Friday, Jan. 28. Energy efficiency in the municipal buildings is the priority now. In the future, Orleans should pursue the goal that new municipal construction within Orleans will be green.

Committee discussed the placement of photos and information regarding energy efficiency and solar panels in the library display case and at the

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Town Hall. We are waiting to hear what months may be available for such a display. We contacted the Orleans Citizens Forum to inquire about a possible joint program. We will continue to discuss this with the Forum. We should also consider utilizing the display area in Town Hall. Paul Rooker commented that the Town's web site might be another option. These displays can be utilized for education of the public on the merits of alternative energy sources.

The REC should continue its efforts to help Orleans achieve the status of a Green community. If the town achieves Green Communities status it will become eligible for grants to assist the Town in future projects.

Ken R. is going to check on a date for My Generation solar company to discuss their participation in Solar Gardens installations as well as opportunities for residential solar installation that are now available at a REC meeting.

John Hodgkinson, Town's Representative to the Cape Light Compact spoke to the Cape Light Compact's year end report. John mentioned that electric rates would be going down for municipalities and residents on the Cape who are members of the Cape Light Compact (CLC). The main reason for the decline in rates is the abundance of natural gas available to utilities to produce power. These new reduced rates should assist the towns on the Cape with electric bills, as of 7/11. A new multi-year rate of 7.57 cents/kw for 3 years represents a 27% decline. The present green rates through July 2011 are 8.61KWh for 50% green and 9.31KWh for 100% green. Other new rates for 6 months are: residential, 7.71KWh; small commercial, 8.02KWh; large industrial, 7.94KWh. One year new rates from January 2011 to January 2012 for residential is 8.60KWh and two year rate(Jan. 2011-Jan.2013) is 8.70KWh. New green rates(6 months) for small and large businesses are: Small, 8.92KWh for 50% green and for 100% green is 9.62KWh. Large, 8.84KWh for 50% and 9.54KWh for 100%. To receive these rates one should call ConEd Solutions at 1-800-381-9192 or Cape Light Compact at 1-800-797-6699.

The Committee should visit the web site of CLC.org to become familiar with these programs. John commented on the lack of knowledge by the municipalities and public on the numerous programs available. There are several new pilot programs such as the federal program National Home Energy Score which will be providing energy audits as a means to energy

reduction. John also pointed out that Orleans and other towns are not taking full advantage of the CLC budgets that are available. As of December, Orleans has spent only 67% of its CLC budget for this year. John mentioned that Brewster is still on track for two 1.6 MW turbines for the town. The Feb 9th hearing vote will determine if the project moves forward. John is a big proponent of wind turbines in the watershed in Orleans. Even if they were only 660 KW, they would help to power the treatment plant. This is something for the Committee to keep in mind for future consideration. He also suggested that we contact Debbie Fitton for recommendations regarding educational programs that are available for schools and for the public.

John Hodgkinson and Ken Galligan of CLC will give a similar talk to the Board of Selectmen on Feb.2nd.

Victor N. had available three handouts for committee members on areas of alternative energy.

Mary Jane mentioned that due to the reorganization of the DOER, Steven Clarke has been appointed the Under Secretary for Renewable Energy in the State of Massachusetts.

The minutes of the December 21 meeting were finally approved by vote 5-0-0

Adjourn at 5:09 PM

David L. Abbott clerk