

Renewable Energy Committee
December 8, 2011 - Minutes

Mary Jane Curran called the December 8, 2011 meeting of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee to order at 4:02PM in the Skaket Meeting Room at the Orleans Town Hall.

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ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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Present: Victor Noerdlinger, Jim Hungerford, David Hubbard, Richard Philbrick, Mary Jane Curran, Dave Abel, Chris Galazzi, and Paul Rooker .

Absent; John Jannell, Conservation Dept.; Sims McGrath, BOS liaison, Finance Committee liaison.

Mary Jane Curran welcomed David Abel to the Committee. With the change in our meeting date to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, we discussed the upcoming dates for 2012. Dave Hubbard will mail to the Committee and the Town Clerk's office for all future meetings in 2012

Mary Jane gave an update on the CVEC RFP for the ground mounted solar projects within Orleans. During the past months there have been 16 potential bidders interviewed with the number now down to 4. We are not sure when the final bid acceptance will be. The exclusivity agreement ends on December 31, but there is possibility of an extension beyond that date if no final bid decisions have been made. Dave Abel questioned the exclusivity agreement with CVEC. Much discussion followed on the pro's and con's of such an agreement. The Committee agreed that more data and information from CVEC is needed before a decision to move forward could be made. Chris G. commented that Borrego is not bidding on the CVEC projects. He would like to ask that Borrego provide a generic description of a solar project within Orleans. A discussion centered around whether the Committee should proceed with such a request since CVEC has exclusive rights until Dec 31st.

Any CVEC project would have to be approved by the BOS and then receive final approval at the spring Town meeting. Chris also suggested that we talk with the Orleans Finance Committee about the possibility of a Borrego project description at some future date.

Mary Jane agreed to set up a meeting with Sims, Dave Abel and Mary Jane to discuss these issues prior to our December 22nd meeting date.

Dick Philbrick brought up the issue of wind turbines on the Cape and surrounding waters particularly Cape Cod Bay. Dick gave a short history of how Cape Light Compact and CVEC came into existence. Dick is worried wind is being dropped as an alternative renewable energy source.

Jim Hungerford commented on his discussions with wind industry cohorts on the sound levels of turbines and the ongoing controversy about the noise produced by turbines.


Jim also raised the question what is the correct name for our committee because the Cape Codder paper advertises the meetings as the Wind and Energy Committee. Mary Jane C. checked and the correct name is the Renewable Energy Committee. Dave H. will remind the Cape Codder of the correct name that should be used in future notices of the REC meetings.

The Energy Survey will be continued at future meetings.

Orleans Elementary School (OES) is interested in including members of the Committee to help with future projects on energy. Deb Fitton is working with the OES to develop such projects.

Minutes for November 1st meeting were approved with one spelling correction.

Adjourned at 5:15PM


David L. Hubbard, Clerk