



Renewable Energy Committee  
December 22, 2011 - Minutes

Mary Jane Curran called the December 22, 2011 meeting of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee to order at 4:00PM in the Skaket Meeting Room at the Orleans Town Hall.

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ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

*K. Derby, Asst*

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Present: Victor Noerdlinger, Jim Hungerford, David Hubbard, Richard Philbrick, Mary Jane Curran, and John Jannell, Town Conservation Dept.

Absent: Paul Rooker, Finance Com. liaison; Sims McGrath, BOS liaison, Dave Abel, and Chris Galazzi.

Mary Jane Curran called the meeting to order at 4:00PM. Mary Jane asked the Committee to approve of the previous meeting minutes. Minutes of Dec. 8, 2011 were approved with a 5-0-0 vote. Mary Jane handed out copies of the proposed date schedule for 2012 for members to review and commented that she and Dave Abel met with Sims McGrath, Board of Selectmen (BOS) the previous week.

John Jannell took the floor to update the Committee on the progress of the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperatives (CVEC) projects for ground mounted solar system throughout the Cape. John J. gave a short history of the process; CVEC proposed a Phase II of ground-mounted solar systems on CVEC Town sites; CVEC investigated the sites; put out a Request-For-Proposal(RFP) for solicitations; received 11 responses; narrowed it down to 6 potential bidders; the Orleans landfill was bid on by 4 respondents; 2 bid on the 3.5 acre watershed site near the landfill. There are now 4 finalists. CVEC will meet in early January to choose the one vendor for all the projects. CVEC is hoping to award one project for each town, The final decision should be made around the middle of January. John J. mentioned that the process will extend past the exclusivity date of December 31, 2011. Mary Jane asked about this time frame and exclusiveness of the project.

John mentioned that the Committee could approach a 3<sup>rd</sup> party for a generic project proposal but until the current CVEC project bid process is completed, we should honor the exclusivity of the CVEC agreement.

John reminded us that any 3<sup>rd</sup> party future projects would have to go through the town of Orleans competitive bidding process. Then each one would have to go through the necessary steps: approval of REC, the Water Commissioners, Board of Health, and finally the approval of the BOS before February 24<sup>th</sup>. This is the date when Articles for the May 2012 Town Meeting Warrant must be finalized. This process is mandated by the Orleans Town Charter. Other Towns do not have to follow this process.

John J. commented that the Committee should look for hard data from CVEC by the end of January to make our recommendation on the project. The project must be approved by the BOS before the Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Article deadline. The Board of Selectmen will have to decide on the Article and it's merit before much of the basic financial information is available. Info on the Power-Purchase-Agreement and the savings may not be firmed up. John J. stated that a solar project at the landfill would be good for Orleans and the ratepayers. Whatever power is generated by CVEC through the solar project, 90 % will be available for Orleans and 10% would go to the other CVEC member Towns.

A discussion on the future of projects in the Orleans Watershed commenced. Any future project will require relief from the Article 97 which states anything done on the watershed needs to meet water production demands. The unsuccessful 2 turbine project did get this approval. The Town may have to go to the State Legislature for permission for land use change.

Mary Jane mentioned she should have updated info on the Orleans Elementary School cooperation at the next meeting on Jan. 12, 2012.

Adjourned at 5:14PM  
Dave Hubbard Clerk