

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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Renewable Energy Committee
March 15, 2012 - Minutes

Mary Jane Curran called the meeting of March 15, 2012 of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee to order at 4:03PM in the Skaket Meeting Room at the Orleans Town Hall.

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Present: Victor Noerdlinger, David Hubbard, Mary Jane Curran, Chris Galazzi, Sims McGrath, BOS liaison, Paul Rooker, Finance Com. liaison

Sims McGrath

Absent: David Abel, John Jannell, Conservation liaison.

Chair Mary Jane Curran welcomed all to the meeting. The meeting continued the discussion of information received from CVEC on the installation of ground mounted solar panels in Orleans. Mary Jane shared the memo John Jannell sent to the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners asking them for permission to attend the March 21st meeting in order to update them on the CVEC project as they had voted to approve the CVEC Letter of Intent. He will also ask them if they wish to move forward at the Annual Town Meeting with an Article involving 3.5 acres in the watershed

The REC is putting together a list of questions to ask CVEC relating to the project in preparation for a meeting with the BOS. The REC is still without any firm decision whether the CVEC Landfill project should go forward and does not currently have a recommendation for the BOS.

Sims McGrath went over the proposed Articles for the Town Warrant at the Town Meeting in May. Sims offered up four possible options.

1. The language of Article 20 that was distributed to the REC on March 5. This Article would be presented in the Special Town Meeting and

would allow the BOS to pursue the preparation of a RFP for solar projects using funds from this year's budget.

2. Would authorize the BOS to accept the CVEC, project on the 1.7 acres at the landfill site.
3. Would authorize the BOS to proceed with a third party to develop the 3.5-acre site in the watershed.
4. Would authorize the BOS to seek relief from the State for the Article 97 requirement for the watershed site of 3.5 acres.

Sims M. gave the REC additional information on the 3.5 acreage. The BOWSC has to decide if they will permit the cutting of trees to allow installation of the solar panels. CVEC analyzed all the potential watershed sites for their economic values. The area around the treatment plant came up for discussion again since it is clear of trees. Sims thought the power at the plant was not 3 phase, which would present a problem for a solar installation. Jim H. planned on checking this out with Todd at the treatment plant.

Dave A. and Chris G. had put together a summary statement regarding the CVEC project and a list of questions that was handed out to committee members. Mary Jane asked that any additional questions be forwarded to Dave and Chris prior to the March 22nd meeting date.

Several other items need research: will the NStar CAP on solar municipal projects be extended and will SRECS be continued?

Sims M. mentioned that the time frame for the relief from Article 97 could be shorter than first thought (~1-2 years). Could possibly have this by fall.

There was discussion on the possible preparation of an RFP for 3rd party companies interested in bidding on a solar installation. An outside consultant would be hired. There were also questions about the complexity of the PPA. Town Council does not have the legal expertise in this area nor does the Town have funds to hire outside consultants. At the end of the life of the panels, the Town would have to consider dismantling costs and returning site to original condition.

Sims reminded us that Orleans has backed renewable energy projects for many years. Much discussion on what the committee does know and what it does not know regarding the CVEC proposal continued. It was decided

to continue this discussion and arrive at a recommendation at the March 22nd meeting.

Adjourned at 5:51PM

David L. Hubbard, clerk