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Renewable Energy Committee January 12, 2012 - Minutes

Mary Jane Curran called the January 12, 2012 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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Present: Jim Hungerford, David Hubbard, Richard Philbrick, Mary Jane Curran, Chris Galazzi, Dave Abel, Paul Rooker, Finance Com. liaison; and Sims McGrath, BOS liaison.

Absent: John Jannell, Conservation Dept. liaison.

Mary Jane Curran opened the meeting with an update of the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative's (CVEC) project to install ground mounted solar panels in Orleans. Mary Jane commented that John Jannell had emailed her with no news. There is a meeting of CVEC on January 26th at which such time the decision will be made to award a contract. One company will install the solar panels in all the towns that have a project included. Mary Jane went over the decision-making that must occur before the February 24th deadline for the Town of Orleans Warrant Article. Paul Rooker asked if all towns would have to approve the project by vote. Sims McGrath mentioned that each town has the chance to say thanks or no thanks. If some towns do not approve a CVEC project, then there will be modifications to the contract

Dave Abel asked about the exclusivity process. Mary Jane explained that John Jannell recommended allowing the process to run its course. Dave A. and Chris G. had many questions about the process and how it restricts the opportunity to compare a 3rd part proposal with a CVEC proposal. Chris G. asked if Borrego could present a generic proposal to the Committee to provide data for the Committee and Mr. Kelly to use for comparison purposes. Sims McGrath stated that two proposals could be presented for

Warrant Article but that would be confusing for the voters. Rather, Mr. Kelly would have both Borrego and CVEC data to present to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) for their consideration as they make a recommendation for an article for the May Town Meeting. Chris mentioned that Borrego is very interested in a local project and is willing to put on a presentation for Town Officials. Dave A. made a motion "To have Borrego come to a combined meeting of REC, BOS, Town Administrator, and other interested parties to educate them and update information as necessary for a proposal." Jim H. seconded. Short discussion followed with a vote of approval, 6-0-0. Chris is going to check with Borrego when they might be able to present a program. The meeting will require a posting of an agenda for the specific time for the public meeting. Dave H. will check on room availability. Chris is trying for next week on Wednesday or Thursday but that cuts time for notification and agenda posting. Sims M. suggested that a letter be sent to John K. recommending that he check information on the CVEC proposal, the Borrego proposal, as well as the completed project by Borrego in Mashpee for comparison purposes. Mary Jane will write this letter to Mr. Kelly inviting him to the meeting when as soon as the date has been arranged

Old Business;

Mary Jane reported that she met with Debbie Fitton and teachers from Orleans Elementary School. There are several events that are being planned for the spring. One will involve OES 3/4 graders and Eddy School 5th graders and another by 6/7/8th graders at Nauset Middle School. REC can get involved and help out. More information will be provided.

Mary Jane and Dick Philbrick attended a sub-committee meeting of the Assembly of Delegates (Barnstable County) on the current relationship of CVEC and Cape Light Compact. A public meeting will be held in the next weeks.

Minutes of Dec. 22, 2011 meeting were approved by 6-0-0

Meeting Adjourned at 5:38PM

David L. Hubbard Člerk