

Renewable Energy Committee January 24, 2012 - Minutes SPECIAL MEETING

Mary Jane Curran called the Special meeting of January 24, 2012 of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee to order at 4:05PM in the Nauset Meeting Room at the Orleans Town Hall.

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
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Present: Jim Hungerford, David Hubbard, Richard Philbrick, Mary Jane Curran, Chris Galazzi, Dave Abel; Sims McGrath, BOS liaison, and John Kelly, Town Administrator.

Also present William Ricco and Andrew Reed of Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. (Borrego).

Mary Jane Curran welcomed all to the Special Meeting of the REC as an educational session on a solar project presented by Borrego. Chris Galazzi introduced both William Ricco and Andrew Reed of Borrego Solar to the REC members and to John Kelly and Sims McGrath. William Ricco gave an overview and history of the company and explained that Borrego installed the system at Mashpee. Ricco and Reed work out of Lowell, Ma. Mr. Ricco then went into the proposal of a project that could be considered for Orleans. The proposal was a generic proposal for no one particular site. He handed out a copy of the proposal to all present (copy of proposal attached). The areas being considered are the sites that were identified for the phrase II request for projects by the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) for ground mounted solar panels. The main areas being considered are located at the Watershed property and the adjoining landfill. Borrego would prefer one area of about 4-5 acres to install a 1MW system. It may also be suitable to have several smaller sites as an alternative. Andrew Reed mentioned that there are some basic standards for sites to be considered. They should be flat, cleared of vegetation, have

easy access, and access to power connections. Ricco and Reed explained the financing, benefits, and some of the warrantees for the equipment and materials included. They explained methods of ownership or the leasing of the project.

A question and answer session gave a chance for those attending to get additional information. The end of life of the equipment and disposal of such and comparison to wind turbine was questioned. The solar panels are mainly recyclable and are much easier to disassemble and dispose of the materials. The exclusive nature of the CVEC RFP required further clarification.

John Kelly recommended that the Town follows through with the current CVEC process and see what numbers come out of the bidding process. He also stated the time frame for the Warrant Article is not quite as short as first stated. Additional time to compare proposals should be available to get something finalized for the Warrant Article at the Town Meeting.

The meeting gave the REC, Sims McGrath, and John Kelly an opportunity to learn more about solar projects with their associated benefits and costs.

Adjourned at 6:04PM

David L. Hubbard, clerk