



Renewable Energy Committee
February 9, 2012 - Minutes

Mary Jane Curran called the meeting of February 9, 2012 of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee to order at 3:39PM 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, Chris Galazzi, John Jannell, Conservation, liaison, and Glen Holden Kelly, stand in for Paul Rooker.

Absent: Paul Rooker, Finance Com. liaison; Sims McGrath, BOS liaison.

Mary Jane Curran opened meeting by welcoming all. She gave John Jannell the floor to update committee on the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative(CVEC) proposal for ground mounted solar panels in Orleans as a portion of the bigger project all over the Cape.

John told the committee that the list of potential bidders is now down to one and a review of sites with the developer is now being done. The Orleans site on the landfill, 1.7 acres and the Orleans site on the watershed, 3.5 acres are on the developer's list. The remaining sites proposed in Orleans have been dropped. The landfill, 1.7 acres and the watershed, 3.5 acres are very close together. Both will require additional steps before a project can move forward. The landfill will require the Board of Health and Board of Selectmen (BOS) permission to proceed. The watershed site has standing trees that will have to be felled and cleared before work can commence. It will require approval of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, and the BOS, as well as an Article 97 exemption to use the land for a solar project as opposed to strictly watershed use. Orleans and four other towns have Article 97 issues to contend with.

John commented that CVEC would like each Town who submitted a proposal to have at least one project. Orleans' Charter requires a Town

Meeting approval vote for expenditures over \$20,000 and lasting longer than 20 years. A special article(s) would give the Board of Selectmen approval to enter into the execution of a land lease and Power Purchase Agreement with CVEC. There may be a problem having all of the CVEC financial data available to meet the March 8th deadline for a Town meeting article. John J. figures it will be around three weeks before any figures or data will be available. John said the price of the power should be 12 cents a KW or under to have a viable project. The CVEC model works as a broker for third parties interested in construction of solar projects. The Town load for electricity is about 1.2 MW and the current proposal is for about 1 MW.

John J. hoped the REC would recommend to the BOS that two Articles be presented at Town Meeting, one for the landfill site and one for the watershed site. The Board of Selectmen will be the ones to decide if the project proceeds. If the CVEC model does not happen then the REC could proceed with other 3rd party proposals.

Mary Jane reminded the Committee that the NStar Cap on renewable energy production for the state is close to being met. Incentives will be reduced after the cap is reached so time is running out for getting new projects started.

Chris Galazzi feels uncomfortable that we do not have CVEC financials for the project. He asked about "What is the best value for the Town of Orleans"?

Dave Abel asked if the articles to be presented could be generic so they might offer the flexibility to secure 3rd party financials to compare with the CVEC proposal. There was much discussion on the pro's and con's of such an approach.

John agreed to inquire as to time frame for warrant articles and discuss the possibility of a generic article with Town Counsel and Town Admin. John will attend next meeting on Feb. 23. Hopefully he will have additional information by that time.

Mary Jane then asked for review of the minutes for the Special Meeting on Jan. 24th and for the regular meeting on Jan. 26th. Victor N. mentioned that he attended the meetings but was not listed on the minutes. Correction noted for both. Minutes for the meeting on Jan. 24th and Jan, 26th were both approved by 7-0-0 vote.

Adjourned at 5:45PM

David L. Hubbard, Clerk

