



Renewable Energy Committee
February 23, 2012 - Minutes

Mary Jane Curran called the meeting of February 23, 2012 of the Orleans Renewable Energy Committee to order at 4:03PM in the Skaket Meeting Room at the Orleans Town Hall.

ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

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Present: Victor Noerdlinger, David Hubbard, Mary Jane Curran, Chris Galazzi, David Abel, John Jannell, Conservation, liaison, Paul Rooker, Finance Com. liaison, and Ron Collins.

Absent: Dick Philbrick, Jim Hungerford, Sims McGrath, BOS

| Chair Mary Jane Curran welcomed all to the meeting and invited John Jannell to update the Committee on the status of the CVEC proposal. The CVEC project has 2 sites in Orleans: one at the landfill, (1.7 acres) and one on the Orleans watershed, (3.5 acres.) Each will require regulatory votes to reach initial start of work. The project is in the final stages of negotiations to arrive at a final agreement. The landfill can be pursued the easiest with the watershed having many more hurdles to jump over because of Article 97. The final bidder is Broadway Electric.

| John had sent a Draft Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) to the Committee, which would satisfy the requirement of the Orleans Town Charter that a PPA needs to be filed with a draft Article. Town Counsel Michael Ford recommended leaving Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) named in this draft PPA but the term "another qualifying party" could not be used. CVEC currently is the only party that could be named. ^

| ^ David Abel stated that he believed that a "generic" article authorizing the BOS to issue an RFP and to pursue the best solar array deal for the town was possible. He also pointed out that the committee had asked for town counsel's legal opinion to be issued in writing at the last meeting and that

this was the second meeting at which it had not been provided. He questioned how the REC was to understand the issue if it was not fully explained.

There was much discussion over how to proceed with the CVEC project. Mary Jane explained that the Renewable Energy Committee (REC) initially signed the "letter of intent" for Orleans to enter into the proposed CVEC project. Orleans did supply a number of sites for consideration. A major discussion occurred over the lack of financial information supplied to date on the project. John J. commented the information should be available shortly and before the Town Warrant Article timeframe is closed. The REC will have an opportunity to look over the numbers and vote on the Warrant Article. If voted on by the REC, the Town Meeting Warrant Article would authorize the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to analyze and make a decision whether or not to continue with the CVEC model.

Questions were raised on the lack of information from a third party on a similar project. How can a decision be made on whether the CVEC project is a good buy if there is nothing to compare it to? How can the Committee know what is the best deal for the Town? At this point in time there is nothing to compare the CVEC project to. The only way would be to offer another "Request For Proposal" on the same project requirements. We were reminded that the NStar cap on net metering energy projects is close to being met. CVEC is working to get all of their proposed town solar projects for Round 2 in the queue before the cap is reached. Would Orleans miss the cap closing if we were to issue an RFP at this late date?

John J. mentioned that the town of Orleans has no responsibility for the cost of creating the contract in the CVEC proposal. All of the work is being completed by CVEC. John also mentioned that the REC would have to figure out a way to get another RFP completed and out on the streets if they want to change directions and solicit a 3rd party proposal. Chris G. commented that the REC is being asked to support the CVEC project without numbers. Chris questioned whether a good decision could be made without the numbers.

A motion was offered to possibly get another PPA. After discussion, it was withdrawn. There was a motion made by the REC to ask Town

Administrator, John Kelly to arrange a meeting with Town Counsel, Michael Ford and liaison, Selectmen Sims McGrath to get a clarification on the wording of a "PPA" that might offer a more generic proposal. The vote was 5-0-0 to request such a meeting.

A vote to adjourn was made and seconded.


Dave Hubbard, Clerk