

Wellfleet Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of August 20, 2012
Wellfleet Town Hall 7:00 p.m. (door locked), moved to Council On Aging Building

Present: Chair Marcus Springer, Charles P. Cole, Edmund Doyle, Richard Elkin, Lilli-Ann Green, Cole Morton, Teresa Parker

Absent: Craig Meadows, William Sullivan

Guests: Janet V. Morrissey, Preston Ribnick

Chair Marcus Springer called the meeting to order.

A request to tape record the meeting by Preston Ribnick was made and the request was granted by the Chair Marcus Springer.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion: Chair Marcus Springer moved to approve the appointment of Lilli-Ann Green as secretary for the Energy Committee. Richard Elkin seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

BUSINESS

Solar Photovoltaic Installation, Large-Scale Ground-Mounted (LSGMSPI) Zoning Bylaw draft: Chair Marcus Springer provided a brief overview of the bylaw and its history at the request of Charles Cole. The impetus of the bylaw is to meet Criteria 1 of the Green Communities Act. Guest Janet Morrissey talked about the draft bylaw that the Planning Board has been working on with the help of Chair Marcus Springer.¹ She explained the research she has conducted. She stated that the Planning Board will present the bylaw at the town meeting in the spring since there will not be a fall town meeting. Janet answered questions and listened to comments and proposed revisions suggested by Committee members.² It was decided that the discussion would continue at the October meeting. At that time the Energy Committee members will submit to the Committee in writing suggestions for revisions so, as Richard Elkin summarized “it will expedite the conversation of the committee.” It was discussed that at the October meeting, the Committee will plan to vote on proposed recommendations to the Planning Board. Charles Cole will research the situation in Eastham regarding their solar PV bylaw and implementation plan. Marcus Springer talked about the concerns of committee members regarding as of right siting in that abutters do not need to be notified of a project. It is the intent of WEC that any homes that are abutters or could potentially visually see a LSGMSPI in any town location that the draft bylaw could apply to, will be notified and asked for their input prior to a Planning Board hearing of the bylaw.

Website of Wellfleet Energy Committee: Richard Elkin is designing a website that is proposed for the WEC. He is open to receiving feedback regarding the design of the site, the information architecture and the content. The site is available for review.

Research of proposed waiver of Criteria 1 of the Green Community Act written to DOER: Discussion of letter written to DOER in research of this issue.³ Marcus Springer called it “a brilliant plan and if it works it would be outstanding.”

Research on proposed plan for mass purchase of solar panels for Wellfleet homes and buildings: Discussion held on research into the benefits of creating a plan so that home owners and business owners in Wellfleet can purchase solar panels for their roof tops at a lower price.⁴ Different purchase plans were discussed including the tax benefits for doing so. One company has offered to provide Wellfleet with the promotional and educational benefits that the DOER “Solarize Massachusetts” program offers. It was decided that various companies should present their cost savings ideas to the Committee. Richard Elkin suggested several companies that members of the Committee may talk with and offered to provide company names and contact information to Lilli-Ann Green for further research. Blu Selenium Solar will be presenting to us at our October meeting with regard to pricing structures and strategies for mass purchase of solar panel idea of Lilli Green.

Motion: Richard Elkin moved to adjourn the meeting. Edmund Doyle seconded, and the motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ Planning Board draft PV bylaw, submitted by Janet Morrissey, 8.16.12 Photovoltaic Revised Draft

² Letter to WEC from Lilli-Ann Green regarding draft PV bylaw, 8-19-12 MEMO to WEC re LSGMSPI.pdf

³ Waiver Request for GCA Criterion 1 - Wellfleet - Preliminary Research .pdf

⁴ 8-19-12 Research Findings - WEC.pdf