

**Wellfleet Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of March 25, 2013
Council On Aging Building
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair Marcus Springer, Charles Cole, Lilli-Ann Green, Teresa Parker, Finance Committee Representative Thomas Reinhart

Absent: Richard Elkin

Excused Absence: Edmond Doyle

Guests: Jason Stoots and Conrad Geysler

Chair Marcus Springer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

A request to tape record the meeting by Lilli-Ann Green was made and the request was granted by the Chair Marcus Springer.

BUSINESS

Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Photovoltaic Installation (LSGMSPI) Warrant Article: Chair Marcus Springer introduced the topic and a discussion was held about the warrant article. Lilli-Ann Green expressed appreciation to the planning board for their hard work on this article and her support for most of the language in the article. She expressed concerns about several items that she has brought to the attention of the Wellfleet Energy Committee (WEC) and the Wellfleet Planning Board. She objects to the expedited permitting and as-of-right siting language because it gives up individual and community rights. She stated that if this language is removed from the article and the article passes, Wellfleet would have a good zoning bylaw for LSGMSPI and could ask the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for a waiver to Criterion 1 of the Green Communities Act (GCA). She also has concerns regarding costs to the town of Wellfleet for NStar connection fees, upgrades fees and any potential visual impacts associated. She expressed the importance to finding a path to receiving in writing from NStar all fees in advance of a completed application for LSGMSPI especially if the expedited permitting is approved at town meeting. She has a concern regarding the definition of degraded or previously disturbed land and would like to see the following statement inserted in footnote #6, line one, after previously disturbed land: within the last 30 years.

Motion, Charles Cole moved to approve the warrant article as is. Chair Marcus Springer seconded, and the motion carried 3 – 1 (Green).

Virtual Attendance of Committee Meetings: Chair Marcus Springer spoke about potential benefits of virtual meetings for the WEC. He stated that he would bring the matter to the Wellfleet Board of Selectmen. All members in attendance agreed this could be positive for the committee.

Stretch Code: Chair Marcus Springer explained that DOER has not released the new stretch code. He is planning to work on a primer for builders so they can understand the code and what it means for them. This summer he plans to have a presentation with builders.

Minutes of February 4, 2013 meeting:

Motion, Chair Marcus Springer moved to approve the draft minutes¹. Teresa Parker seconded, and the motion carried, 3 in favor, 1 abstained (Cole).

Introduction of guests Conrad Geysler of Cotuit Solar and Jason Stoots of E2 Solar: Chair Marcus Springer introduced the guests.

Presentation and discussion: Both guests spoke about their companies and how they could work with Wellfleet owned buildings, residents and small businesses regarding roof mounted solar panels. They spoke about how they could work with our community and that both companies would be interested to work together to benefit Wellfleet. They talked about many different options that they each offer. Questions were asked regarding economies of scale. A discussion about LSGMSPI also took place. Both companies expressed a desire to be involved with efforts to educate the Wellfleet residents about solar options. Both guests stated that they would email to Chair Marcus Springer information that the WEC could evaluate regarding the services and products they can offer to Wellfleet. It was the opinion of one of the guests that Wellfleet determine the NStar upgrades and costs to the town in writing prior to beginning the application process for a LSGMSPI.

Discussion following presentations: The WEC members expressed that it was important to evaluate the presentations of the local solar companies and to talk about next steps.

Future Meeting Schedule: Chair Marcus Springer suggested April 15th as the next meeting date of WEC and all present agreed to the date. He also spoke about returning to hold meetings on the third Monday of the month. It was agreed this schedule is desirable.

Updates on Research Conducted by WEC members: Lilli-Ann Green summarized her communication with DOER regarding the GCA². It took over a month and a half to answer the questions posed and the response was written by an attorney. She asked that the WEC members read carefully the answers given. The answers make her question if joining the GCA is the right decision for Wellfleet. Thomas Reinhardt stated that joining the GCA could help raise consciousness of people in Wellfleet about important issues. Other ways to raise consciousness were discussed including the lecture series at the library *The Next 250* which both members Teresa Parker and Lilli-Ann Green have been involved with. Teresa spoke about the benefits of community involvement.

Motion: Lilli-Ann Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Chair Marcus Springer seconded, and the motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ Draft Minutes of the 2-4-13 WEC

²Communication with DOER regarding waiver to GCA criterion 1