

**Wellfleet Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of August 19, 2013
Council on Aging
6:00 p.m.**

Present: Chair Marcus Springer, Lilli-Ann Green, Charles Cole, Teresa Parker, John Ryerson and Isaac Sargent

Excused Absence: Edmond Doyle, Richard Elkin

Guests: Michael Rice, Patricia Rogers and James Rogers

Chair Marcus Springer called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

A request to tape record the meeting by Lilli-Ann Green was made and the request was granted by the Wellfleet Energy Committee (WEC) Chair, Marcus Springer.

BUSINESS

Introduction of new members: Chair Marcus Springer and the WEC members welcomed the new committee members John Ryerson and alternate Isaac Sargent.

Minutes of the July 15, 2013 meeting: The Chair had not circulated via email the draft minutes to members of the WEC prior to the meeting. The Secretary brought the Draft minutes she had prepared to the meeting as a handout¹. The Chair stated that there are not enough people present who attended the last WEC meeting to vote on accepting the minutes so he said that we would move on to the next item on the agenda.

Progress on Green Communities Act (GCA): Chair Marcus Springer talked about the criteria for the GCA. He and other WEC members explained criteria 1-4 of the GCA. The Chair stated there was no further progress on criteria 3 & 4. He is working with two Wellfleet contractors (Eric Winslow and Manny Heiliger) to create a booklet of diagrams regarding the Stretch Code. The booklet will explain what the Stretch Code means and how to do it. A Town Meeting vote is needed in order to adopt the Stretch Code which is needed in order to meet the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) GCA criteria 5 and to become a Green Community. Charles Cole stated that this is a sticking point with Wellfleet contractors. Chair Marcus Springer said he is thinking that the WEC may want to ask the Wellfleet Forum to sponsor an event around this topic. Eric Winslow and Manny Heiliger may talk with other Wellfleet contractors and people in the building trades once the booklet has been prepared. There was discussion regarding the Stretch Code. Lilli-Ann Green expressed that she is concerned about the part of the Town Meeting vote required that states once the Stretch Code is adopted, all future editions, amendments and modifications of the Stretch Code are automatically adopted, and we don't know what the changes will be in the future. This is giving up community and individual rights to an unknown. Chair Marcus Springer stated that the town can vote to rescind the Stretch Code after a year. Lilli-Ann Green stated that this would need to be a Town Meeting vote. She raised the question again concerning any funds that Wellfleet received from the GCA being in jeopardy as a result. Chair Marcus Springer stated that the answer is in an email from DOER.

[Please see the answer below received on 2-25-13, which is part of the public record on file with WEC minutes and was written by Seth Pickering at DOER:

Would a city or town need to repay the GCA monies already received? “To date, DOER has not encountered this situation, but DOER reserves the right to do so as circumstances warrant. The specific circumstances of the situation will likely influence the decision.”

If all of the GCA monies have not been spent at the time the city or town decided to opt out, what if anything would happen to the unspent funds?

“Grants funds are disbursed in installments in accordance with the terms of the grant contract materials. In general, an upfront disbursement is made before any expenditure of funds by the town, then follow-on disbursements are made based on receipt of invoices. If a municipality is no longer meeting its obligations under the terms of the grant contract materials, any grant funds that had not been disbursed would likely be retained by DOER.”]

Start RFP process for capped landfill solar array - Marcus to bring Committee up to date on discussion with Town Administrator:

Chair Marcus Springer has not met with the Town Administrator on this topic to date. Teresa Parker said she read that Truro is ready to build a solar array on their land fill and if they have already been through an RFP process, this may be helpful. A discussion followed. Chair Marcus Springer stated that an issue is whether the electric lines are large enough to carry the power at this location or if there are new poles or lines needed. Lilli-Ann Green brought up the points that during the WEC meeting [on 3-25-13] with Cotuit Solar, it was stated that a consultant could be hired in order to find out the answer and that it may be wise for Wellfleet to determine NStar upgrades and costs to the town in writing prior to beginning the application process for the solar array. There was discussion around this point. [Please see communication with NStar which is part of the public record on file with previous WEC minutes 10-15-12 & 2-4-13] It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next WEC meeting.

Progress on purchasing solar panels in bulk, educating Wellfleet property owners about solar options and mapping rooftops of Wellfleet properties, i.e. Mapdwell - Discussion of funding and future discussion with Board of Selectmen as well as Presentation to Board of Selectmen - August 27th BoS meeting:

Chair Marcus Springer introduced the project of purchasing solar panels in bulk to the new members of WEC. He stated that the company Mapdwell has presented to the WEC. Lilli-Ann Green handed out the packet of information from Mapdwell.² He talked about the Mapdwell company, the software that they have developed and the proposal that they have developed. John Ryerson asked who pays for this? Marcus stated that what we are trying to do is to raise money to do this, the WEC agreed to do that. Teresa Parker contacted the Tern Foundation. Lilli-Ann Green objected. The WEC never voted to raise money to do this. Lilli-Ann Green continued saying that Teresa Parker said she would like to approach funding sources and bring information back to WEC. Lilli-Ann Green has been asking for the Tern Foundation owners to attend a WEC meeting and present what they are willing to do and answer questions. It is improper to move forward prior to taking this step. She clarified that Chair Marcus Springer said the Tern Foundation would not fund the software and that he has met with others in the town who are willing to do so. Chair Marcus Springer said that he has made progress. Teresa Parker asked if the town will fund the project. Chair Marcus Springer said that he met with the Town Administrator and the town will not fund the Mapdwell resource. He also said that the Town Administrator would like a solar map for the town of Wellfleet. Chair Marcus Springer said that the Tern Foundation can only fund a 501 c3 non-profit organization. They are interested to pay for education. Lilli-Ann Green raised the question if WEC can ask the Tern Foundation to give money to a certain 501 c3, such as the Community Development Partnership which is not controversial, represents all stakeholders and does not have a controversial issue before one of our town boards? She questioned taking over of a town project by a non-profit. A subcommittee of the WEC seems an appropriate entity

to implement a town project. Chair Marcus Springer said that the Tern Foundation owners have said that they can work with Mass Audubon.

Lilli-Ann Green stated that the Mapdwell software is a resource for a larger project of buying solar panels in bulk. She prepared draft handouts that she customized for Wellfleet that Chair Marcus Springer had emailed from the town of Stowe, MA.³ This town is calling their project a Solar Challenge and they are not applying to MassCEC to become part of the Solarize MA program. She then explained to the new members that WEC has discussed the MassCEC program a number of times and has decided that the Solarize MA is too restrictive for our town. WEC has discussed and decided that we would like to customize materials that MassCEC has developed to benefit the needs of Wellfleet. This includes a tiered pricing strategy of discounts based upon the volume of kilowatts purchased during the program. WEC has also interviewed local solar vendors and has talked about three vendors as being appropriate for our town. Chair Marcus Springer said that there are seven solar vendors on Cape Cod. Lilli-Ann Green asked that WEC invite the solar vendors we have not interviewed to a WEC meeting.

Lilli-Ann Green said that this is a project that she introduced to the WEC and she has been researching this project for over three years. She has asked at WEC numerous times for WEC to bring the concept to the Board of Selectmen (BoS) for their approval so that she could move forward to create an implementation plan and timeline with milestone dates as well as educational materials with a subcommittee of the WEC. We have not talked about implementation before at a WEC meeting. She said that she wanted to be a part of WEC to advance this concept and that she has great experience in developing educational programs and wanted to be a part of WEC to volunteer her organizational and educational skills and abilities. She showed WEC members several educational programs that she developed, with over 100 people for each program, that have been successfully implemented throughout the United States. She stated that she is willing to put her volunteer time and resources into this project and to work with a subcommittee of WEC to implement this concept. There was a discussion of how the Mapdwell software relates as a resource for the overall concept of a Solar Challenge for Wellfleet and purchasing rooftop solar panels in bulk, as well as an overall coordinated educational effort. Lilli-Ann Green stated that she created a PowerPoint presentation draft and handouts in the last day because she thought that Chair Marcus Springer would need the approval of the WEC in order to bring information to the BoS meeting on August 27th.⁴ She stated that this presentation clarifies what she has been describing.

Chair Marcus Springer asked why Lilli-Ann Green would want to volunteer her time for free if the Tern Foundation would want to pay for education. Lilli-Ann Green said that this was one of the main reasons why she wanted to be a part of WEC, in order to propose a vision and to implement it through working with WEC. She thought of the idea of powering the town of Wellfleet with the donation to the town of excess electricity that was generated by property owner's solar panels on their rooftops over three years ago. In donating excess energy to our town, building owners may be able to do so by making a tax deductible contribution to Wellfleet. This plan is scaleable for Wellfleet and people are interested in it. This is a plan she hoped to implement.

Lilli-Ann Green stated that she spent her volunteer time creating this draft presentation because Chair Marcus Springer needed to have WEC approved materials for the BoS meeting on the 27th of August. It is her understanding that if there is nothing approved at this meeting, WEC would need to meet again to approve what Chair Marcus Springer brought before the BoS. Chair Marcus Springer said that he was just bringing the BoS up to date with what we are doing. Lilli-Ann Green said that was the point, she has been working towards the plan of property owners purchasing in bulk rooftop solar panels since she was appointed to the committee. That is the project. The Mapdwell software is a resource to achieve that

goal. There was a discussion regarding education in the community of Wellfleet. Lilli-Ann Green stated that she brought copies of the Mapdwell handout because this was a resource for the BoS to review and she was looking for approval of materials for Chair Marcus Springer to present to the BoS on August 27th.² She prepared drafts of a potential packet of information for the BoS meeting which includes:

- a. PowerPoint presentation overview;
- b. handouts customized regarding an RFP process for solar vendors;
- c. and the Mapdwell handout.

She asked that WEC review the materials, modify if needed, and approve the materials for a presentation by the Chair to the BoS on August 27th.

Guest James Rogers asked if WEC was considering including just residents or all property owners in the plan to purchase solar panels in bulk and thereby create a schedule of tiered discounts. He asked what was the plan to include the 65% of property owners that are non-residents? A discussion was held to clarify that all property owners in Wellfleet will be included. The non-residents are key for this project to work.

Lilli-Ann Green said she has been told that individuals can donate money to the town and receive a tax deduction therefore allowing people who want to donate money towards the solar map software to do so. A discussion followed. Lilli-Ann Green stated that she would like WEC members to look at and discuss the draft PowerPoint presentation she prepared as well as the draft handouts for the August 27th BoS meeting.

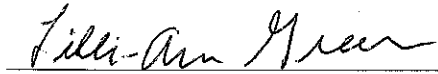
Motion: Teresa Parker made a motion that was clarified by John Ryerson. The motion voted on was the following: Chair Marcus Springer has the authority of the WEC to discuss with the Wellfleet Board of Selectmen (BoS) at their meeting on August 27, 2013 in general and nothing specific what the WEC has been discussing regarding bulk purchasing of solar panels for rooftops of buildings in Wellfleet as a town project and the Mapdwell software. WEC has not decided anything. The motion was seconded by Charles Cole. The motion carried 5 affirmative, 1 abstention (Green).

Chair Marcus Springer said that he had to leave the meeting.

Lilli-Ann Green stated that there was one item left on the agenda to discuss. The item is: Mass Audubon (MAS) Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary wind turbine proposal. Robert Prescott, the Massachusetts Audubon Society Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary Director stated that he would answer all questions people have, yet he has not answered questions and she has prepared a letter with outstanding questions. Robert Prescott said he would attend the WEC June meeting. It is her understanding that he has been invited to attend the WEC meetings in June, July and August and has not been able to do so. Mr. Prescott also said during the May 21st meeting with WEC that the noise study would be finished in a matter of days and he would email this to the Chair of WEC and it is her understanding that Mr. Prescott told Chair Marcus Springer within days of this current meeting that the noise study by MAS consultants is still not completed. Chair Marcus Springer said he had to leave the meeting. Teresa Parker stated that she had to leave immediately also.

Motion: Teresa Parker moved to adjourn the meeting. Charles Cole seconded. The motion carried 5 affirmative, 1 abstention (Green). The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ Draft Minutes of the 7-15-13 WEC

² Mapdwell handout materials

³ Draft Handout customized for a proposed Wellfleet Solar Challenge

⁴ Draft PowerPoint Presentation for the August 27th Board of Selectmen meeting