

Wellfleet Energy Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of September 16, 2013
Council on Aging
6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Marcus Springer, Lilli-Ann Green, Charles Cole, Richard Elkin, Thomas Reinhart

Excused Absence: Edmond Doyle, Teresa Parker, John Ryerson and Isaac Sargent

Chair Marcus Springer called the meeting to order at 6:15 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

Correspondence: Chair Marcus Springer said that he will check out on Friday, September 20th if there is a mail box at Town Hall and what is the proper procedure for the Wellfleet Energy Committee (WEC) to obtain correspondence.

Minutes of the July 15, 2013 meeting and of the August 19, 2013 meeting: Chair Marcus Springer moved to accept minutes and handouts as submitted.^{1,2} Seconded by Richard Elkin. Motion carried 4-0.

Progress on purchasing solar panels in bulk, educating Wellfleet property owners about solar options and mapping rooftops of Wellfleet properties: Lilli-Ann Green congratulated the Wellfleet Board of Selectmen for endorsing the WEC to move forward with plans to work with Wellfleet property owners in order to purchase solar panels in bulk thus bringing down the costs for all Wellfleet property owners as well as educating Wellfleet property owners about solar options and developing resources to do so.

Motion: Richard Elkin moved to publically request an official meeting of the WEC with the Finance Committee and to receive a list of scheduled Finance Committee meetings. Seconded by Charles Cole. Motion carried 4-0.

Chair Marcus Springer introduced the Mass Clean Energy Center's (MassCEC) Solarize Mass program and stated that the deadline for the RFP is October 22, 2013 for the next round. He said that MassCEC program participants are guaranteed 40 cents per kilowatt rebate on installed systems. He stated other programs have a 30 cent per kw. He also stated that the 40 cents per kw may be available to others outside of the MassCEC program. The MassCEC program sign up period is from January – June.

Lilli-Ann Green stated that Chair Marcus Springer has brought up the MassCEC program numerous times during the past year and every time he does so, members of WEC state that there are pros and many cons for Wellfleet. Offering a program from January – June will not maximize the benefits of including seasonal property owners as many seasonal property owners are simply not here on Cape Cod during these months. The pricing strategy for the MassCEC program is a tiered approach. The price is lowered based upon the volume of solar panels that are purchased. If the seasonal property owner purchases are not bundled with the year round property owners, the year rounders will not receive the lowest prices possible. If Wellfleet moves in the direction of a more flexible program such as the Solar Challenge program initiated by the town of Stowe, MA then all property owners in Wellfleet would receive the greatest benefit and lowest pricing. Over the past year Lilli-Ann Green has conducted research with solar vendors on Cape Cod. Representatives from the solar companies have attended WEC

meetings and the public has been invited to attend the meetings. One of the solar vendors stated that a discount of 10 - 20% could be expected depending on the amount of solar photovoltaic (PV) roof mounted panels would be installed in Wellfleet. Given that a solar PV installation could cost \$30,000, a considerable savings of \$6,000 is possible for Wellfleet property owners. The Bourne MassCEC Solarize MA greatest savings seems to be about \$1,500 for a similarly sized PV system. Of course there are additional savings in Federal and MA tax credits.

Lilli-Ann Green discussed the need to form a subcommittee of the WEC as a working group to move forward with working on the project of purchasing solar PV panels in bulk, the education of Wellfleet property owners about solar PV options and resources. Marcus Springer, Charles Cole and Richard Elkin expressed an interest to be on the subcommittee as did Lilli-Ann Green.

A discussion was held about the 40 per kw cent rebate guaranteed by MassCEC through the Solarize MA program versus 30 cents without the program and what it translated into in terms of dollars and cents. It was asked where the information is in writing about 40 cents per kw guaranteed and if the 40 could be available instead of the 30 cents but is just not a guarantee. The MassCEC January – June sign up period versus the advantages of the Solar Challenge program were also discussed.

Motion: Lilli-Ann Green moved to research the MassCEC Solarize MA program and compare with the Solar Challenge model.

A conversation ensued. Chair Marcus Springer said that he sent information via email regarding the MassCEC RFP. Lilli stated she did not receive the information. Marcus disputed the statement. Charles Cole stated he did not receive the information either. Lilli-Ann Green stated it is important for the WEC to do due diligence.

Motion: Lilli-Ann Green restated the motion to research the MassCEC Solarize MA program and compare with the Solar Challenge model to see what model holds more benefits for Wellfleet, with a special focus for the year round residents of Wellfleet. Following the research, a vote is taken by WEC whether to move forward with the MassCEC Solarize MA program or not. No second. Motion failed.

Motion: Chair Marcus Springer moved that the WEC will work on an RFP to submit to MassCEC to apply for the Solarize MA program. Seconded by Richard Elkin. Motion carried 3-1 (Green).

Marcus said there is material on the website regarding the MassCEC program.

Chair Marcus Springer stated that there is an opportunity to submit questions to MassCEC. He suggested that all questions from members of WEC be submitted via email to him by Friday, September 20th and that he would compile and submit the questions to MassCEC for their response. All members of WEC were in agreement. Deadline to submit questions to MassCEC is Sept. 30th. Lilli-Ann Green asked if Chair Marcus Springer will act as a liaison to MassCEC and will submit questions. Chair Marcus Springer agreed to do so.

Chair Marcus Springer questioned the following: Does an energy committee have the ability to evaluate proposed installers?

Lilli-Ann Green asked that the following question be included to MassCEC: Can the timeline for the MassCEC Solarize MA be extended from January – June to January – October in order to accommodate seasonal property owners?

Chair Marcus Springer said that one of the requirements is that there are more than 1,000 owner occupied buildings in a town and asked if Wellfleet complies. Lilli-Ann Green confirmed that this is the case in Wellfleet.

Chair Marcus Springer stated that there is a requirement that the community show there is an awareness and interest in roof mounted solar PV panels. Lilli-Ann Green talked about a large awareness and interest in our community for scalable roof mounted solar PV panels. An example given is the Wellfleet Library sponsored series this past year regarding sustainable solutions – solar rooftop PV was explored.

Chair Marcus Springer said that there will be an event Sustainable Wellfleet on November 16th. It was determined that people should email to Lilli-Ann Green community events and supporting documentation regarding what community awareness is evident.

Richard Elkin stated that he has experience writing RFPs and is willing to work on the RFP.

Capped landfill solar array update: Chair Marcus Springer stated that he filed with NStar an application to find out about the interconnection electric pole. NStar did write back to him. Chair Marcus Springer stated that NStar has no concerns about the interconnection of a 300 kw system on the pole at the transfer station. NStar did say that the current load is 481 kw and there are 136 kw applied and approved. The PV large scale solar array is projected to be 300 kw. The next step is to apply for an interconnection and that means going to the Board of Selectmen and asking for the money to do so. It is \$2,400. There was a discussion of whether 300 kw is the number we should be asking for. Richard Elkin talked about efficiency and panel size. Chair Marcus Springer stated that he thinks we should maximize the solar array size. It was determined that further research is needed. Chair Marcus Springer said that it is \$500,000 a mile if added connections are needed. Chair Marcus Springer stated that our solar subcommittee can look into this. Lilli-Ann Green asked, does the connection fee change if we want more capacity? Chair Marcus Springer answered in the affirmative. It was determined that these are questions that need to come before the Wellfleet Finance Committee and Wellfleet Board of Selectmen. If we want to file an application with NStar the application fee is approximately \$2,500 – \$3,000. Once we do so, that amount of power is blocked out for the solar array and can not be allocated for any other use.

Motion: Lilli-Ann Green moved that the WEC get a date on the Board of Selectmen calendar and the Finance Committee calendar to discuss an application to NStar for the interconnection and allocation of power for the potential solar large scale PV array at the landfill. Chair Marcus Springer seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Green Communities Act update: No update.

Massachusetts Audubon Society (MAS) at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary (WBWS) wind turbine proposal: Lilli-Ann Green presented information regarding the proposed wind turbine.

1. She explained that the state approved acoustics expert Stephen E. Ambrose, *INCE, Board Certified* has written a letter to the neighbors of the Audubon Sanctuary. He states that there will be infrasound (or sub-audible noise) . People 1,900' away will be adversely impacted by the proposed wind turbine. That includes the Parkington Hill Road development with 22 homes, the trailer park with over 60 units, the Wellfleet Cinemas, Drive-In, Restaurant, Snack Bar and Flea Market. (Bob Prescott said during the WEC meeting on 5/21/13 that if there was infrasound, "it would be a deal buster". When Lilli emailed him in August with a copy of the Ambrose letter and asking him to withdraw the proposal for a wind turbine, he said he would get back to her

about this in two week. To date she has not received a reply from him about this topic.) Lilli-Ann Green has submitted to WEC the Ambrose letter and his CV as part of the public record. Chair Marcus Springer questioned the validity of the Ambrose letter.^{4,5}

2. Lilli-Ann Green submitted the map of MA with 21 locations listed that have documented and confirmed complaints from people living near wind turbines in MA. The closest location is Brewster. There is a 10 kw, two-bladed wind turbine in Brewster and people are experiencing adverse health impacts. The WBWS wind turbine proposal is 11 kw and two-bladed. Lilli-Ann Green has submitted to WEC the map graphic as part of the public record.³
3. Lilli-Ann Green submitted a letter from the Cape Cod Commission (CCC). The CCC asks for additional information from Mass Audubon including a visual impact assessment, a noise study, filing with the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and submission of comments from the NHESP to the CCC, an assessment of the habitat values of the area to be impacted, to quantify the amount and types of solid and hazardous wastes from construction and operation and to provide protocols for solid and hazardous wastes and recyclables generated from construction.⁶
4. At the 5-21-13 WEC meeting, Bob Prescott stated that he would answer all questions. Lilli-Ann Green submitted a list of outstanding questions and asked that WEC invite Bob Prescott to the next WEC meeting to answer any outstanding questions. The document has submitted to WEC as part of the public record.⁷
5. Lilli-Ann Green also submitted a fact sheet regarding the Mass Audubon wind turbine proposal for the record.⁸
6. Lilli-Ann Green submitted a letter to the Director of the sanctuary in draft format that she recommended be written by the WEC to the Director of WBWS.⁹

Motion: Lilli-Ann Green moved that a letter be sent to the Director of the Massachusetts Audubon Society at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary as prepared requesting clarification of the intentions of WBWS to move forward with a proposal to construct a wind turbine. There was no second for the motion. The motion did not carry.

Motion: Lilli-Ann Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Charles Cole seconded. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ Draft Minutes of the 7-15-13 WEC

² Draft Minutes of the 8-19-13 WEC

³ Public Health Disaster - WWMA 2-28-13

⁴ Letter - Gaia 11-kW Wind Turbine - 20Aug2013-rev1

⁵ Prof CV - 29Jul2013-rev1

⁶ Audubon Commission Letter Sept 11 2013

⁷ 8-19-13 unanswered questions - MAS

⁸ MAS Fact Sheet

⁹ 9-16-13 Draft Letter to Robert Prescott