



## Town of Barnstable Renewable Energy Commission

367 Main Street  
Hyannis, MA

Tel:  
Fax:  
E-mail:

*Chair:*  
Amanda Converse

*Vice Chair:*  
Alison Alessi

*Members:*  
Bob Franey  
Doug Hempel  
Tony Johnson  
Vanessa Lavoie  
Jeffrey Pimental  
Jan Rapp  
Jim Ruberti

*Energy Coordinator:*  
Richard Elrick

*Town Council Liason:*  
Frederick Chirigotis

### Minutes of June 2nd, 2010

A meeting of the Renewable Energy Commission (REC) was held on June 2nd, 2010 at the Barnstable Town Hall, Selectman's Conference Room, 367 Main Street, Hyannis, MA.

The meeting was called to order at 5:37PM by the Chair, Amanda Converse.

#### **Roll Call:**

Commission members present: Amanda Converse, Alison Alessi, Doug Hempel, Tony Johnson, Vanessa Lavoie, and Jan Rapp.

Council Liaison: none

Staff: Richard Elrick, Energy Coordinator

Public: none

#### **Act on Minutes:**

On a motion and second, the commission unanimously voted to approve the May 19th, 2010 minutes as printed.

#### **Announcements/Communications:**

Richard Elrick wanted to bring to the Commission's attention an upcoming event at the Brewster Ladies Library on June 3rd from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. A "Wind Energy Forum" will be held. This forum, sponsored by Cape & Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative, will feature speakers addressing key issues associated with land-based wind energy projects. For more information, visit <http://www.brewsterladieslibrary.org/>. For those unable to attend, the full white paper can be found at: [http://awea.org/newsroom/releases/AWEA\\_CanWEA\\_SoundWhitePaper\\_12-11-09.pdf](http://awea.org/newsroom/releases/AWEA_CanWEA_SoundWhitePaper_12-11-09.pdf).

Richard also noted upcoming "Global Warming Solutions Act" hearing schedules for various locations around the state. The nearest hearing on the Cape will be held at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute's Woods Hole campus on Tuesday, June 15th. Another nearby event is in Lakeville at the Lakeville Public Library on June 8th. For a complete schedule of hearings, visit [http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/climate/gwsa\\_hearings.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dep/air/climate/gwsa_hearings.htm).

The commission wished to express congratulations to Mashpee for receiving their Green Communities designation from the state. A 2nd round of applications will be accepted by the state prior to November and Barnstable is working hard to

make that deadline.

Recent litigation between TransCanada and the State of Massachusetts regarding the state's Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) program has been settled. For more information, see the following Boston.com article: [http://www.boston.com/business/ticker/2010/05/state\\_transcana.html](http://www.boston.com/business/ticker/2010/05/state_transcana.html).

**Staff Report:**

David Anthony submitted an e-mail report answering some of the questions posed by Jim Ruberti regarding the Cape Light Compact accounts and the number of Barnstable households who have taken advantage of the free energy audits:

Q: How many residential accounts are in the town of Barnstable?

A: 25,642 residential customers (1,504 of the 25,642 are low income residential customers). 30,870 commercial and industrial customers. Approximately 350 municipal electric accounts within the Town (including schools, fire districts and libraries).

Q: How many are currently waiting for an audit?

A: The backlog is currently around 5 weeks, but this is not broken down by town. CLC will attempt to provide a more detailed breakdown.

Two other questions asked were still being worked on and David will forward that information when available.

Richard had numerous updates as Energy Coordinator. On the "Green Communities" front, Barnstable is currently developing a map for solar as-of-rights zoning. They are discussing the use of town-owned land for solar projects. They are also exploring locations for a 600KW wind turbine.

A vehicle fuel efficiency program has been designed and the Town Manager, John Klimm, is ready to implement this program. This will be issued as an executive order, but Mr. Klimm is currently getting feedback from various departments.

Barnstable is discussing the early implementation of the soon-to-be mandatory "stretch" building code. A possible joint forum is being discussed with the towns of Yarmouth, Falmouth, and Bourne and builders and interested parties would be invited to attend these forums. A suggestion was made to also invite a representative of a town who has already implemented the new codes. Although the code can add to the cost of both new construction and renovations, it will be the "law of the land" within two years and the sooner Barnstable can enact this, the sooner the town can gain the benefits of the Green Communities designation, including grant monies.

Richard reminded the commission of his weekly appearance on Channel 18's "Barnstable This Morning" program on Monday mornings and asked that if anyone had a suggestion for discussion topics, to please forward them to him.

The concrete foundations for the two new turbines at the Water Pollution Control

Facility (WPCF) will be going in very soon. The installation date for the two (2) 100KW turbines is scheduled for October 27th, 2010. The installation date for the 900KW of solar photovoltaic panels at the same location is scheduled for January 31, 2011. The total of 1.1MW of power will offset ~53% of the WPCF's yearly electric usage.

Richard was able to get some additional information from the Cape Light Compact's (CLC) website regarding home energy audits. For the period of January through March of this year, 513 residential and business customers had audits performed and received \$418,000 worth of benefits. This resulted in a savings of approximately 1.3 million KWh of electricity and has thus far expended approximately 14.2% of Barnstable's allotted budget through the CLC. For more information, those interested can access these public reports at: <http://www.capelightcompact.org/TownReports.html>.

Finally, Richard briefly discussed some projects currently under consideration through a joint venture with the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative. A 1.5MW solar project is being considered at the town's transfer station on top of the capped landfill. Unlike a turbine, which requires a large concrete base, a solar project can be placed on the landfill without puncturing the "cap". This project would be seeking financing using a private equity partner and mass procurement practices amongst a number of towns. A presentation is being created to give to the Town Manager who would then seek Town Council approval. This project could be completed in a short, 2-year time-span.

#### **Old Business:**

The commission then began a discussion of the eight bullet points as defined by the Town Council's creation order.

It was noted that several items on this list really fall under the purview of Richard's job as the town's Energy Coordinator. The commission can assist him with some of these bullet points, but many of them fall into the municipal project category and are already in various states of completion.

Richard will be completing the Climate Action Plan for the town soon and will be seeking the commission's review of this document before presenting it more widely.

General agreement was reached that a good starting point for the commission's efforts at public outreach would be to identify upcoming public events and forums and ask for some table space to be set aside. The commission would attempt to find interested local renewable energy businesses in Barnstable (or Cape-wide) and invite them to use this table space to describe their programs or businesses. Some specific forums suggested were:

- Local civic associations
- Senior Center
- Hyannis Area Chamber of Commerce
- Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce

A discussion was also conducted regarding how the commission could assist Richard and the town in supporting "stretch" code implementation. It was suggested to bring in a contractor working in a town which has already enacted the "stretch" code to discuss how it's been going, the costs associated with it, and the eventual payback on those costs.

As the discussion turned back to community outreach and communication, the commission's website was brought up again. Richard and Doug had just met with the town's IT Director, Dan Wood, and lead web designer, Kevin DeCollibus, earlier in the afternoon. Both Dan and Kevin were very supportive and open to trying to meet the commission's wishes for a site that would provide a wide range of renewable energy and energy conservation information for the residents and businesses within town. The Sandy Neck Beach Park section of the town's website was suggested as a model that might be easy to get developed and provides a nice layout with lots of room for expansion. With the help of the other commission members interested, Doug will come up with a rough draft of a layout and ask for feedback. Once approved, Richard can forward the information on to the town's IT group who will begin implementation of the site.

The commission also discussed ways to get involved in the education mandate specified by the Town Council's charge. Several suggestions were made for educational opportunities (math in particular) related to each student's household energy usage and perhaps simple energy inventories that students could undertake.

Because of the varied interests that different commission members have, the creation of subcommittees was discussed and suggested as a potential agenda topic for a future meeting. Possible subcommittees included website creation, education opportunities, "stretch" code, and PACE bond financing.

Jan expressed a particular interest in PACE bond financing and it was suggested that a "champion" is needed to spearhead that effort.

#### **New Business:**

Communication with the Cape Light Compact is ongoing through David Anthony and Richard and they will continue to ask for answers to the outstanding questions.

Discussion will continue at future meetings on how the commission can support Richard's efforts at getting Barnstable's "Green Community" designation.

The final topic of discussion was how the commission could become involved proactively with the town's various historic boards in setting some guidelines to streamline renewable energy projects within the various districts. Alison noted that Dennis requires brown frames on photovoltaic panels. She agreed to draft a letter that could be sent to the historic commissions as a way of introducing ourselves and perhaps setting up joint meetings or discussions.

#### **Public Comment:**

None.

**Adjournment:**

Up against a time limit because of another group using the meeting room, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Hempel, REC Clerk