



Town of Barnstable Renewable Energy Commission

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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 December 20, 2010

A meeting of the Renewable Energy Commission (REC) was held on December 20th, 2010 in the Selectmen's Conference Room at the Town Hall Building in Hyannis, MA.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:35PM by the Vice Chair, Alison Alessi.

Members present: Amanda Converse, Alison Alessi, Doug Hempel, Vanessa Lavoie, Tony Johnson, Bob Franey, and Jim Ruberti.

Staff: Richard Elrick, Energy Coordinator.

Guests: Michael Nugnes, Viridian Energy.

Public: None.

Act on Minutes:

On a motion and second, the commission unanimously voted to approve the November 17th, 2010 minutes as printed.

Guest Presentation:

Michael Nugnes, from Viridian Energy, gave a presentation on Viridian's plans to enter the Massachusetts energy market with a green energy option at low rates. Details are still not final as they continue to work with the Massachusetts DPU. More information on Viridian's green programs can be found on their website: <http://www.liveviridian.com>. (A physical copy of Mr. Nugnes presentation will be on file with the Town Clerk upon approval of these minutes. Video of this meeting is available on the town's website.)

Staff Report:

Richard Elrick began the staff report portion of the meeting by letting the commission know that the Barnstable Enterprise was planning to produce a video at the Barnstable Transfer Station showing recycling efforts and general programs available at that facility.

Richard contacted the Board of Health again regarding the private waste haulers. He's working on getting a full list of the private haulers. Generally, they are required to offer recycling, but no marketing or sales information was as yet available. There is no requirement to report recycling rates.

A radio segment on wind energy will be airing (NB: will have aired by the time these minutes are available) on WQRC and its affiliates. Podcast and streaming versions of this radio program are available on WQRC's website at: <http://www.wqrc.com/>.

A brief discussion of the REC's website happened. Richard and Doug continue to work on adding things and having the site updated. A Facebook and Twitter account were setup for the REC. The Facebook page can be found by searching for "BarnstableEnergy". The Twitter page is at: <http://twitter.com/barnstableenergy>.

Richard will reserve the conference room for the next three scheduled meetings on January 24th and the third Mondays of February and March (February 21st and March 21st).

Another Stretch Code presentation will be made to the Town Council at an upcoming meeting (date not yet determined). Richard would like to get some more builders (both pro and con) and some homeowners who have had this kind of work done to come speak. Current numbers still seem to support that the cost difference is about 5% and that is quickly recovered in reduced energy costs. Still seeking other sources of numbers and how the DOER numbers were calculated.

Still working on the initial planning for an Energy Fair or Earth Day event. Cape Light Compact is willing to offer support. Initial suggestions are for a date in early April (1st or 2nd Saturday?).

The Town of Barnstable has applied for a DOER grant to get two electric charge stations installed in the town. Grant announcement should come in February.

A discussion ensued on the CVEC vs. Old King's Highway newspaper article. CVEC is considering filing some legislation to have the purview of the OKH limited when it comes to wind turbines. The REC also discussed coordination with CVEC to perhaps participate in this legislation or coordinate with CVEC. The OKH continues to be a difficult hurdle even for reasonably-sited residential solar in Barnstable.

Through Richard, David Anthony passed along information on the Cape Light Compact's new electricity rates for the 2011 calendar year. For detailed information on residential and commercial rates, visit: <http://www.capelightcompact.org/>.

The RFP for the CVEC large-scale solar project at the town's former landfill continues. Three vendors replied to the recent RFP which encompasses 7 other communities (in addition to Barnstable). Barnstable's solar installation would be approximately 3.5MW and the award of the contract is expected some time in February for construction in the Fall of 2011.

The WPCF project continues. The turbines are still waiting for NSTAR infrastructure updates. Approximately 50% of the solar panels are installed with the remainder to be installed by mid-January, weather permitting.

The Barnstable High School continues to discuss siting of a small-scale turbine on it's property. Initial review indicates a turbine on the scale of the ones at Country Garden and the WPCF is possible.

Old Business:

The education working group has rescheduled the Educator's Energy Forum for January 12th from 4-6PM at Cape Cod Academy. Jan was instrumental in getting the time and place for this event.

Some members of the REC will be helping out at the Energy Carnival at the Horace Mann Charter School (4th/5th grade) which will be held the mornings of January 5th and 6th. The Cape Light Compact sponsors this event.

Earth Day event planning is still on the table. Contact will be made to various organizations around town and Cape-wide to attempt coordination. A suggestion was made to contact the "Students for Sustainability" group at CCCC. Doug and/or Vanessa will reach out to that group.

New Business:

None.

Public Comment:

None.

Adjournment:

On a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Hempel, REC Clerk