



Town of Barnstable Renewable Energy Commission

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Minutes of July 21, 2010

Chair:
Amanda
Converse

A meeting of the Renewable Energy Commission (REC) was held on July 21st, 2010 in the Main Hearing Room at the Town Office.

*Vice
Chair:*
Alison
Alessi

The meeting was called to order at approximately 5:30PM by the Vice Chair, Alison Alessi.

Commission members present: Amanda Converse, Alison Alessi, Doug Hempel, Jim Ruberti, Vanessa Lavoie, Tony Johnson
Council Liaison: none
Staff: Richard Elrick, Energy Coordinator and David Anthony, Chief Procurement Officer.
Public: Steven Scannell.

Act on Minutes:

On a motion and second, the commission unanimously voted to approve the June 23, 2010 minutes as printed.

Announcements/Communications:

None.

Staff Report:

Richard Elrick began his staff report by letting the commission know that the planning of a "stretch code" forum was still in progress for September 15th, recent communications have indicated that the date for this event needs to be moved to September 22nd. He also mentioned the meeting with regulators, and some representatives from the Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources (DOER).

Richard was expecting all the pieces in place to make an application to the "Green Communities" program some time later in the month.

A draft policy on the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles was approved by the town manager and sent along to various departments for review.

A draft ordinance for "as-of-rights" zoning has been written and will appear for its first reading at the August 5th Town Meeting, and a second reading later in August.

A tour of the Barnstable landfill was given to a vendor interested in working with the town to place a large number of so-called "green" containers.

An updated "bottle bill" is currently working its way through the state legislature and is expected to be passed and signed by the Governor. It would include sports drinks and other non-carbonated beverages not currently included in the current deposit program.

Members:

Bob Franey
Doug
Hempel
Tony
Johnson

Installation of the turbines at the WPCF is expected to begin in the first week of August.

Richard also passed along a full-color brochure that the town of Sandwich's Energy Commission was able to have distributed. He attempted to duplicate to get the word out about the commission and the programs currently offered by various organizations.

Vanessa Lavoie Jeffrey Pimental Jan Rapp Jim Ruberti

Richard briefly summarized the findings of a recent forum at the Upper Cape Regional Technical High School on the health effects and no issues of hearing loss. This is not meant to dismiss various issues that those living near turbines have, but David Anthony had several updates for the commission. The new solar array on Barnstable High School is almost complete in minutes.

David is currently working on a new maintenance contract for the cogeneration facility at the high school. While not specifically heat from the generation of electricity to provide heat to the building in the colder months.

Energy Coordinator:
Richard Elrick

Also, the pricing has been set for the various municipal energy contracts for the town. Natural gas prices were particularly high in the last few months.

Town Council Liason:
Frederick Chirigotis

David also discussed the status of the current busing situation for the school district. It's about a \$3M contract currently in place or to buy buses. The trend in the state is to bring busing "in house". It saves on the profit margin that the busing companies hire staff. Several town employees have been working on the options. The DPW has a large facility that could be used for busing if the town pays for the fuel. If more fuel efficient vehicles were purchased, even 1-2 MPG gains would save a lot of money on the vehicles. Compressed natural gas (CNG) and hybrid buses have also been discussed and researched.

A question was asked about why we're not putting up more solar on the town-owned buildings in town. David answered that the project at the high school was well-funded. They had willing partners in ConEdison Solutions and the Cape and Vineyard Commission, so it makes projections difficult. The co-gen facility at the high school produces 1.6 million KWh in a year and costs about \$25k a year to maintain. In FY2010, it burned approximately \$125k in fuel. The high school solar is certainly a test bed and if it pans out it will be much easier to "sell" these projects.

Old Business:

The commission then began a discussion of agenda items. The three "working groups" discussed at a previous meeting are still ongoing.

The Outreach group headed up by Vanessa and Jim presented an outline of various goals they would be pursuing, including a municipal "Green Team", and additional meetings with the school department.

The group had a very productive meeting with the Barnstable School Committee who seemed open to the REC speaking with the schools. They suggested that we meet first with "student liasons" to further refine our communication plan with the schools. The group also discussed ways that we might be able to help with regard to energy programs in the schools specifically. The school committee and the REC are working on this.

Vanessa had also begun to contact the energy committees/commissions from other Cape towns asking them for feedback and suggestions for how Barnstable's commission might best spend its time.

Richard took a moment to let the REC know that he was working with the town's GIS department and the airport to create a map that would be suitable for turbines at various heights. This was also being done as the high school has interest in putting up a solar array.

Doug gave a very brief rundown from the working group dealing with communications. Basically the work done to date has been approved by the REC. It has been forwarded to the town's IT department and we are awaiting any questions or requests. He will continue to follow up with the IT group.

The working group (as yet still undergoing a naming process) dealing with interaction between the REC and other town departments is introducing the Renewable Energy Commission and asked for comment on the letter before it was sent to the OKH.

A discussion ensued here regarding the listing of photovoltaic projects as received from the town's building department. The list was not complete and completeness. Several known projects were not listed in the documentation and it only goes back a couple of years. The REC is acting as a "clearinghouse" for more information and would attempt to create a more detailed list showing all of the projects going on in the town.

The REC also discussed the information presented by the Cape Light Compact, both through their website and in documents.

confusing. In additional documentation received, it doesn't clearly break down municipal vs. non-municipal project and attempting to get better data.

A question was asked about whether the CLC and their contractor(s) could "keep up" if the REC was able to spur a great deal although they are still running at least 3-4 weeks behind with their current backlog. The REC would really like to get a better comparison have good numbers for comparison.

New Business:

Richard gave a brief update on the status of Massachusetts's PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) bond program. It's how bonds are treated like a betterment and are attached to the property and not the property owner. It's a way for people to finance homeowner moves, the new homeowner picks up the betterment fee and the accompanying energy benefits within the home.

These programs have been successful in other states, both spurring renewable energy projects and creating jobs. Recently with attached PACE bonds. Several federal legislators have been fighting the stance of these two groups and have introduced

Richard also gave a brief update on the state's Wind Energy Siting Reform Act. This act is an attempt to provide one-to-two years to site this kind of turbine and the act attempts to make this a much quicker process. The goal is to make the siting a month permitting process with a 12-month appeal period.

For detailed information on the Wind Energy Siting Reform at, please visit: <http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeceaterminal&L=4&L0=Home&L1=Energy%2C+Utilities+%26+Clean+Technologies&L2=Renewable+Energy+reform&csid=Eoecea>.

The REC also discussed the continued absence of one of its members. Alison agreed to contact the town attorney and the rule is two consecutive unexcused absences. The person in question has not attended any meetings nor provided a reason people initially accepted and the position on the commission should go to someone willing to participate.

Public Comment:

Hyannis resident Steven Scannell, a local fisherman, boat builder, and environmentalist, made a brief presentation to the resource delivery called the TRIPE System that can be reviewed in detail at his website: <http://environmentalfisherman.com>. He suggested that Mr. Scannell have his proposed project reviewed by some academic institutions, including Cape Cod Community College.

Adjournment:

On a motion and second, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Hempel, REC Clerk