

**Dennis Alternative Energy Committee
February 6, 2023
Final Minutes**

Members Present: Mike Sarli, John Benker, Susan Klein, Mark Lambdin, David SanClemente, Lyn Solomon, and David Langan (alternate) via Zoom
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Tom O'Connor (DPW Deputy Director and Committee Liaison)

A quorum was declared.

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mike Sarli at 5:01

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 19, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Move to approve minutes of the January 19, 2023 meeting as written. Motion made by John, seconded by Mark. Approved unanimously

ANTICIPATED BUSINESS

Green Communities and Other Municipal Updates

Updates were provided by Tom

- **Lighting Upgrades at Town Buildings**

Tom reported that the lighting fixtures came in much sooner than expected and Installation has begun at the Public Library. The work is being done on Mondays while the library is closed. Once the work on the library is complete, they will start the lighting upgrades at the Police Station.

- **Solar Installations at the Highlands Golf Course**

Tom had set up a meeting with Mary Ellen Fabiano, the acting director of the Golf Department, for January 24 at 10 a.m. but Mark and Lyn did not get the word. **The meeting will be rescheduled for Monday, February 13 at 10:00 a.m.**

Mark asked whether there was any solar canopy proposal that was currently active. Tom replied that there was not. He added that the only obstacle he was aware of with regard to solar canopies at the Highlands in the future might be with the Old Kings Highway Committee, and that a roof-mounted system might be more appealing to OKHC than a solar canopy.

Deferring to Tom, Susan noted that in talking to former Golf Director Mike Cummings in the past, it was her understanding that the golf cart fleet was not owned by the Town, but

rented on a multi-year lease. If that was the case, conversion of the fleet from gas-powered to battery-operated would take place all at once when a new rental agreement was affected. Tom agreed that this was his understanding as well. Susan suggested that when the sub-committee meets with Mary Ellen, it would be good to find out where we are in the current lease period. **Mark and Lyn will add this to the list of questions they will ask Mary Ellen at the meeting.** Susan also asked Tom whether, when he spoke to Mike Cummings some time back, Mike expressed interest in converting to electric golf carts. Tom confirmed and added that part of his interest in converting was that it would cut down on staff time. Instead of having to fill the gas tanks of each cart each night, staff would simply plug them in at night and unplug them in the morning.

- **Pilot Charging Station Project**

Tom commented that there has been a lot of hard work done by the Committee over the past months to get the presentation together for Mike Lavin to send up to Town Hall for the Select Board. He's looking forward to success when the presentation is made on February 28.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- **Charging Station Pilot Project**

- **Select Board Presentation**

- ∴ Mike reported that, up until February 2, we were expecting to make the presentation to the Select Board on February 7. At the last minute, he received word that our presentation was put off until February 28. Because this new date was coming close to deadlines for Town Meeting warrant articles, Tom had hoped to be able to let us know the drop-dead dates for both citizen petitions and regular warrant article submission but did not have the dates handy. He did say that it was either the last week of March or the first week of April. He felt that we still had plenty of time. Several committee members said that they had been concerned that we were getting close to the cut off. **Tom has the exact dates and will forward to the Committee.**
- ∴ Mike reported that he, Tom and Mark worked on the PowerPoint presentation the previous week and that it had been sent it off to the Select Board and the committee members. He asked if anyone had comments on what might be said when presenting the slides.

Susan noted that she had previously sent Mike her comments but wanted to share them with the rest of the Committee. First, she felt that the sentence stating "the plan provides the Town with a \$60,000 infrastructure upgrade at the cost of a \$2,500 annual lease" mixed apples and oranges. The sentence made it sound like a cost-benefit comparison, but the dollar cost of the infrastructure upgrade was really irrelevant since the Town would never have to pay for the infrastructure upgrade. If we did not get approved under the Make Ready program or some other grant, the

whole project would be scrapped. **Mike and Mark agreed that if this becomes an issue at the presentation, they can just clarify the point.** Susan also felt that an important point had been missed--that being that not only did the Town get to set the user fees, but that the user fees minus 10% retained by ChargePoint for servicing credit card will revert to the Town. Mike and Mark felt that this was implied and could be stressed when Mike made the presentation. Susan also suggested that everywhere the word "infrastructure" was mentioned, the word "electrical" be inserted in front of it. We know what infrastructure entails, but it probably wouldn't be clear to those outside the committee.

- .: With regard to the warrant articles referred to in the presentation, Susan said that it was her understanding that the \$2,400 cost of the annual subscription was going to be presented as a line item in the DPW budget. She asked for a clarification. Tom responded that this had been Mike Lavin's initial strategy but that he had been directed by Administration to take it out of the budget and present it as a separate warrant article.
- .: Susan asked how many years funding we were going to ask to be authorized for the purposes of the warrant article. Mike responded that what we are going to suggest to the Select Board is the amount which represents our best estimate of the total out-of-pocket expenditures for the first few years which, according to the financial analysis, is \$5,000. He added that once the Town signs a 5-year lease, they are obligated to pay \$2,400 each year for 5 years and it is up to the Administration or Select Board to figure out how to pay it.
- .: Tom suggested everything would be included in a single warrant article. Mike added that, with multiple warrant articles, you run the risk of having one approved and not the other. Susan explained that this is not how it works at Town Meeting. Each piece has to be a separate warrant article and before the first one is presented, the Town Moderator explains that the next x articles are related. The person who speaks to the first of the articles, i.e., a member of the Committee, explains how they are related and the need to approve them all. Mike summarized that the two things that need to be approved are 1) authorization to enter into a 5-year lease agreement for the charging stations, and 2) they have to come up with funding...either the 1 year and somehow come up with funding for the second year, the amount of the deficit, or some other amount. The amount would be up to Liz Sullivan or Josee Cardinal Young.

- **Solar Installation at the Highland Golf Course**

Covered under the Municipal updates above.

Susan suggested that now that we are looking at the option of a roof-mounted system, we should broaden how we refer to this and call it a "solar installation" which could include either a solar canopy or a roof-mounted system.

Wind Power

- **Follow-up on Siemens Wind Power Generation**

Dave S has not yet heard back from his son John about possible dates for a presentation to a joint Zoom meeting of the Alternative Energy Committee and the Climate and Coastal Resiliency Advisory Committee. Mark asked that, in his presentation, John address the service life of the wind turbines and how the remains of the obsolete turbines will be disposed of. David S. suggested that the committee members put together a list of questions they would like John to answer. For example, how is Siemens dealing with the lifecycle of the turbines? do they replace blades? do they replace turbines? how much of it can be retrofitted? He added that blades wear out quickly and there is even a position at Siemens for a person to deal with the blades.

David L reminded David S. to ask his son if he is aware of any towns that have rules and regulations pertaining to wind energy. Susan asked whether anyone had had a chance to look at the wind energy section of the Dennis Zoning By-Laws that she forwarded to the members after the last meeting. Mark pointed out that the by-laws limit us to 10' off of the ridgeline of the roof. Mike noted that, given the current technology, it is unlikely that an economically viable residential wind generation system is possible under the limitations of the by-law. David S. again pointed out that there are residential combo systems of solar and wind that are 8-10 feet high and mount on the ridge of the house. He had stopped researching these types of systems because he felt they would never be approved by Old Kings Highway, but there are plenty of locations outside of the district where such systems could be installed. **David will resume his research on these combo systems and report back to the Committee.** Mike, as the chair of the South Dennis Historic District Committee, is sensitive to the intersection of the renewable energy legislation and the historic district rules and regulations and believes that the historic districts may have a hard time invoking a blanket prohibition. We ought to see what modern technology affords us and come up with an idea of what a rewrite of the zoning by-laws would look like. He encouraged David S. to continue his research into these residential combo systems.

UNANTICIPATED BUSINESS

Mike received an email from the Select Board office regarding AEC members whose terms come up for renewal this year—Mike himself, Mark, David S., Lyn, and David L.—asking for their interest in continuing to serve. Mark and Lyn indicated that they had already responded in the affirmative. David S. and David L. had not yet gotten their letter from the Town.

As chair, Mike was asked to do an attendance report for each of the members along with his recommendation on whether to reappoint. He asked Susan (as secretary) for copies of the minutes from all of the meetings in 2022 which documented attendance. She asked whether he wanted them emailed or whether he wanted to go to the Town website where they are posted. He opted for the latter.

Susan suggested that since we had a vacant slot for regular membership we recommend that David L. be elevated from alternate member to regular member. David L. responded that it

didn't matter to him whether he was a full member or an alternate member, he'd still attend the meetings and participate.

John asked who was our liaison with the Select Board. It was generally believed that Chris Flanagan was still our liaison, and Susan noted that she had been sending Chris the draft minutes when she sent them out the Committee members for review.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move to adjourn. Motion made by Mark; seconded by Lyn. Vote: unanimous
Adjourned: 5:51 pm.