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**Dennis Alternative Energy Committee
March 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 5:02

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 6, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Move to approve minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting as written. Motion made by Dave S., seconded by Dave L. Approved unanimously

ANTICIPATED BUSINESS

Green Communities and Other Municipal Updates

Updates were provided by Tom

• **Lighting Upgrades at Town Buildings**

Tom reported that the upgrades of the lighting fixtures in the library and the police station are complete, except for a few small punch list items at each facility. They moved a lot quicker than expected. The lighting in the parking lots have not yet been surveyed and this is in line to be done.

Susan asked whether there were more buildings in the queue for lighting upgrades. Tom responded that there are but they are weighing the options of paying for them out of capital vs. Green Communities. The rest of the municipal buildings in town can be upgraded for \$60K. Mike asked why we wouldn't want to just go ahead and use Green Communities monies. Tom responded that he had been discussing our priorities with Cape Light Compact and, in addition to the lighting upgrades, one of the other priorities is to document the status of all the electrical equipment in all of the town buildings. This needs to be done as a prerequisite to developing a maintenance plan. Also, there are some smaller projects, like fixing the AC at the Pines Golf Course. All these are candidates for Green Communities monies and a decision needs to be made where best to place the remaining money.

- **Pilot Charging Station Project**

The presentation to the Select Board has again been put off. It is now scheduled for March 14.

Sub-Committee Updates:

- **Charging Station Pilot Project**

- **Zoom Meeting with Power Options**

A Zoom meeting was held with Power Options. On the Dennis side, it was attended by Committee members Mike and Mark, DPW Director Mike Lavin and Deputy Director Tom O'Connor, Assistant Town Administrator Greg Rounseville and Select Board Chair Chris Lambton. The Power Options side included Heather Takle (President & CEO), Walter Gray (Solar Program Manager), and Tricia Rush (Dennis liaison).

After a brief introduction by Mike, he invited the Power Options staff to answer any questions that Greg or Chris might have.

- ∴ Power Options would play a proactive role in implementing the pilot by coordinating between the state, the town, ChargePoint, Eversource, the contractor which is on both the Eversource and ChargePoint approved vendor lists.
- ∴ Tom felt that this had been a good meeting, giving Greg the answers to 90% of the questions he had.
- ∴ Power Options was supposed to produce a current sample lease agreement for ChargePoint as a Service (CPaaS) as well as documentation of their current contract. Tom reported that he had reached out to them earlier in the day to remind them to forward those documents.
- ∴ Mike reported that Heather Takle observed that Dennis would be in the forefront of acquiring the charging stations via lease. Power Options has worked with many towns, all of which have purchased their charging stations, but she made it very clear about the benefits of leasing. She did a good job in reinforcing our leasing recommendation.

- **Select Board Presentation**

- ∴ Because the new date of the presentation was so close to the cutoff for warrant articles, Tom felt that we should go to the meeting with the warrant articles drafted. Susan volunteered to work with Tom and Mike Lavin to finish drafting the articles. She remarked that she had already drafted the article for authorizing a 5-year lease using exactly the same wording as an article in the 2022 Annual Town Meeting for the same purpose.

She noted that it was important to pin down how much money needs to be authorized up front if we sign a 5-year agreement, indicating that the Finance

Director, Josee Cardinal Young, would probably be the best person to make this decision. Tom indicated that administration is currently trying to work this out.

Tom suggested that it might be best to put everything in one article. Susan responded that she had never seen it done that way. Typically, there would be several articles that the Moderator would indicate to the assembly that they are related. After the motion is made, the first speaker would make a presentation that ties the articles together, and then they would be voted on separately.

- ∴ Mike held up the prop he planned to bring to the meeting—the thick notebook containing the compendium of data Susan has been putting together—to demonstrate that Committee has really done its homework with regard to charging stations.
- ∴ Mike noted that, at the last Select Board meeting, Mark spoke briefly indicating that we would be making a full presentation at their next meeting.

➤ **Eversource Make Ready Program**

Susan brought up the issue of the recent email to Tom from Mohammed Faiz from Voltrek notifying us that Eversource was ready to send us a letter of intent for the 4 sites that were visited in August. In spite of the fact that he had been told that Dennis was leaning toward the lease option, his email suggested a path forward via purchase. He requested a phone appointment with Tom. Tom indicated that he had not yet responded to this email.

Susan noted that she had not yet had a chance to look at the requirement of the newly authorized Make Ready Phase II program and felt that we needed to reconfirm that CPaaS was still eligible under the new guidelines. She asked Tom whether he wanted her to follow up with whoever replaced Steve Conte as Eversource's Make Ready contact. Tom agreed that this would be helpful. **Susan will try to ascertain who Steve Conte's replacement is and then contact him/her to confirm CPaaS eligibility.**

Susan noted that Voltrek has its own agenda. In addition to doing the preliminary leg work for Eversource in assessing sites that have applied for the Make Ready Program, they are also vendors of charging station equipment. This may be why they are ignoring our plan to lease the charging stations and continue to indirectly push the purchase option. She wondered how we can get out from under Voltrek and still move forward with Eversource. Mike reminded her that in the Zoom meeting the previous week, Power Options indicated that they can coordinate the whole process from hereon out. Their vendor for the CPaaS is Lily Pad, not Voltrek, and Lily Pad's sub-contractor for installation is DK Power. Lily Pad and DK Power are authorized vendors for both the Make Ready Program and ChargePoint products.

Susan's immediate concern with the email was that it said that Eversource was ready to issue a letter of intent for 4 sites. Dennis has decided to move forward with only one of those sites as a pilot. She felt that we need to let Eversource know that we only want to go forward with one site at this time and to put the other three sites on hold. The

consensus of the group was that it was not important to notify Eversource at this time and if they send a letter of intent for 4 sites, it would essentially be ignored. Regardless, we won't be able to do anything until we have Town Meeting approval. Mike noted that it would be good to get the letter of intent for 4 sites because it would be documentation that all 4 sites had been approved.

Tom reiterated that once we get through Town Meeting with the pilot site, Power Options will facilitate the whole process.

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

- **Meeting with the Acting Golf Director**

Mark reported that he, Lyn and Tom met with MaryEllen Fabiano-Stowe, the Acting Golf Director, and she is very enthusiastic about having some type of solar installation at the golf course(s).

- ∴ MaryEllen suggested that we make the case for a consultant to come in and look at our golf courses and various other facilities in town about proper locations for solar including existing structures. Susan asked whether the consultants would be through Power Options. Mark responded that we should wait to tackle this until we have the charging station pilot under control. Mike commented that Power Options would probably be a logical choice.
- ∴ MaryEllen reported that they are thinking of expanding the garage structure which the sub-committee has been looking at as the site for a roof-mounted system.
- ∴ Mark added that the Golf Department is looking at rotating out their current gas fleet in favor of battery-operated golf carts. In the short term, this will complicate things because they don't have enough room in the current garage to charge all of the carts so they'll have to have a couple of remote charging sites.
- ∴ Mike said that one of the things that surprised him in previous conversations was that MaryEllen has been thinking about switching to electric carts in terms of a saving in staff time, in addition to the reduction of the carbon footprint and the savings of electricity vs. gasoline as fuel, simply having to plug them in at night and unplug them in the morning vs. the number of staff hours required to refuel all of the gas-driven carts in our current fleet, will save considerable staff time. Mark noted another advantage—that of the insurance issue since we would no longer be paying people to handle hazardous material.
- ∴ Mark has done minutes of this meeting.

Wind Power

- **Siemens Wind Power Generation**

- **Zoom Meeting with John SanClemente**

Mike reported that a Zoom meeting was held on March 22 at which John SanClemente briefed members of the Committee and the Climate and Coastal Resiliency Advisory

Committee about the state of wind energy along the mid-Atlantic and New England coasts, including 9-10 projects between Cape Cod and New York that can power a couple of million homes.

- ∴ Susan commented that one of the most important points made was that the land-based infrastructure is not nearly ready to handle all the power generated by the approved and planned projects.

David S. said that he has discussed this very point with his son. He asked him why the Biden legislation did not include money to improve this grid infrastructure. John had said that there were provisions for infrastructure improvement but because of the expected bureaucracy, none of the power companies wanted to take the money and then have to follow the government regulations.

Mike recalled that John said that the power companies like Eversource were installing these infrastructure projects at their own speed, going before the rate-setting boards and saying you're forcing us to install all these infrastructure improvements, here's what it's going to cost and here's how we're going to have to apply the costs to all the rate payers.

David S. described the problem here on the Cape. First, they have to construct a sub-station in Hyannis, then they have to upgrade everything all the way from Hyannis to Bourne to get it to the main lines.

- ∴ David S. recalled John's description of one of the projects that was bid on and permitted and were locked into a price at which they were going to sell the power. In the intervening time, costs have skyrocketed and the project will no longer be profitable. Rather than lose money, they are ready to let the permit lapse but are hoping to be able to renegotiate.
- ∴ Mike said that one of the projects that struck him was south of Nantucket and was going to lay cable in the ocean around the Cape, across Cape Cod Bay and make landfall somewhere in the Boston metropolitan area. Dave S. commented that this actually might be cheaper than upgrading the land-based infrastructure.

Dave S. recalled John saying that initially built, the grid was supplied by coal and gas-generated turbine which were located population centers and then pushed out to less populated areas. With wind, the electricity will be generated in less populated areas to supply the population centers and the existing grid just can't keep up.

- ∴ Susan commented that another interesting point was the number of the projects that are being implemented by foreign companies. Mike and Dave S. agreed that the European companies are way ahead of U.S. companies in this technology. In fact, the U.S. is getting only about 10% of Siemens' production.
- ∴ **Mike will write a thank you note to John for his presentation.**

- **Residential Wind**

- ∴ Mark had asked Dave S. to query John about whether he knew of any town that were working on residential wind. John was not aware of anything, particularly since Siemens doesn't build anything that small.
- ∴ Mark has done some of his own research on residential wind energy. He reported that there were venturi units being developed, in some cases sistering multiple venturi units together. Venturis are encouraging in that they don't involve moving parts or difficulty in recycling. David S. wondered how these types of units would hold up to sand and salt. He also noted that some were being built for use on recreational boats but these are not of the scale that you would need for a home.
- ∴ Mike continues to be interested in having the Committee look at possible changes in our zoning by-laws with regards to residential wind. First, we'll need catalogue all of the technologies out there, including some of the new technologies like the venturi units. This, along with charging stations and solar installations, should be the basis of our agenda going forward.

UNANTICIPATED BUSINESS

- **Monitoring Energy Savings for Green Communities**

Susan asked where we stood in term of monitoring the energy savings that we committed to in our Green Communities application. Tom indicated that a report gets done every year in the fall with the help of Margaret Song at Cape Light Compact. The reports are primarily based on the Town's electric and gas bills.

Susan was under the impression that we had committed to doing a number of energy-saving projects, each with its own energy savings goal, and had to monitor and report on that basis. Mike said that in the program of work laid out in the application, it was understood that the projects scheduled for implementation in the out years of the 5-year plan were subject to change as time went on and better opportunities present themselves. Tom explained that the proposed projects are under ongoing review, and Green Communities staff have been kept informed of any changes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move to adjourn. Motion made by Dave S.; seconded by Lyn. Vote: unanimous
Adjourned: 5:55 pm.