

**Dennis Alternative Energy Committee
June 5, 2023
Final Minutes**

Members Present: Mike Sarli, John Benker, Susan Klein (by telephone), Mark Lambdin, and David Langan (alternate) via Zoom
Members Absent: Lyn Solomon and David SanClemente
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 5:15

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

APPROVAL Of MAY 1, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Move to approve minutes of the May 1, 2023 meeting as amended. Motion made by Mark, seconded by David L. Approved unanimously

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Mike asked Dave L. whether he had received notification from the Select Board that he had been upgraded to full memberships. He had not. Mike felt that this must have fallen between the cracks when the Select Board's administrative assistant changed. **Mike will follow up to see that the upgrade gets put on the Select Board agenda.**

ANTICIPATED BUSINESS

Green Communities and Other Municipal Updates

Updates were provided by Tom.

• **Green Communities**

Tom has updates on the library, the lighting upgrades in the remaining municipal buildings and Dennis Pines Golf Course

➤ **Library EMS System**

He has received quotes on upgrading the EMS system. Figures come to about \$90,000. This will be funded in full with money from the Green Communities Designation Grant.

➤ **Town Lighting Upgrades**

After paying for the library EMS, there should be about \$30,000 remaining in the Designation Grant and this will be put toward the remaining lighting upgrades in Town

buildings. An additional \$30,000 will be taken from Town capital to complete the lighting upgrades.

That will exhaust the Green Communities Designation Grant. This will open us up to the next round of grant opportunities—the competitive grants.

➤ **Dennis Pines Heating System**

The Dennis Pines heating system will be paid for out of the Golf Revolving Fund. That was approved at Town Meeting. No additional funding will be required.

• **Liaison with Cape Light Compact**

The day after our last meeting, Tom had a discussion with Cape Light Compact. They discussed a couple of things.

➤ **Comprehensive Energy Assessment of Town Buildings**

It is estimated that a comprehensive assessment of energy-related upgrades of all the town buildings would cost about \$250,000. There seem to be several options for doing this and they are not all clear to Tom. He asked for help from the Committee to sort out the options. One option might be to try to fund it from the next round of Green Communities competitive grants.

Mark reiterated that if the Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPCs) are working as they have in the past, under Secretary of the Interior standards, the contractor must be able to guarantee performance and payback within a particular timeframe and if they fail to do so, they pay for it. Mike asked Tom whether it would be worthwhile, since Mark is very conversant with this process, for him to contact Cape Light Compact and work through all the details with them and then report back to him. Tom agreed that this would be very helpful and this could lead into the next round of Green Communities grant opportunities. **Tom will put Mike and Mark in touch with Laura Selmer at Cape Light Compact. Mark, along with Mike, will pursue the topic of an ESPC with Cape Light.**

Mark noted that Power Options also has experience with ESPCs and they have pre-approved vendors. He said it would be interesting to see if CVEC (sic) was on this list. Tom clarified that we were talking about Cape Light Compact, not CVEC. Mike suggested that we might ask Power Options whether they have experience creating a proposal to Green Communities to fund an ESPC. **Mark will contact Power Options to find out more about their work with ESPCs.**

Susan asked whether Tom had talked to Cape Light Compact about any of the other programs besides the designation grants and the competitive grants that are under the Green Communities umbrella, particularly the Energy Management Services Technical Assistance which provides assistance with performance contracting. He had not had the opportunity. **Susan will contact Green Communities to find out more about their META grants and EMS Technical Assistance programs.**

➤ **Energy Consultant**

Tom felt that it would be a huge help to him to have access to an energy consultant. In a way, Cape Light Compact serves this function for the Town, but they work with 15 other towns as well and cannot devote the time we would like. We get some reports filed and some forms filled out for Green Communities, but they are not able to do all that we need to have done. Tom would be looking for a more dedicated consultant.

Mark asked Tom whether had brought up the Cape Light staff consultant that Brewster had bought into during his discussions. Tom had told them that we had been in touch with Peter Lombardi, Brewster's Town Manager, but he had not had the opportunity to follow up on this.

These two items are going to take more discussion, but Tom feels that there are probably better opportunities to get funding for the comprehensive energy audit than for the energy consultant.

Sub-Committee Updates:

• **Charging Station Pilot Project**

➤ **Article 20 for the May 2, 2023 Annual Town Meeting**

∴ The charging station warrant article passed at Town Meeting.

∴ Susan reported that she had spoken informally to Select Board member Chris Lambton who told her that, because the article was funded out of free cash, it was not necessary to wait until the new fiscal year, July 1, to move ahead with the project. **Tom responded that he would get the process started and will keep the Committee up-to-date on the progress.** Susan asked whether we were planning to have Power Options coordinate the installation. **Tom will recontact Power Options to see what role they can play in coordinating the whole installation.**

Susan added that she mentioned to Chris that there was a great deal of money in the Solar Fund and none of it has been used for alternative energy projects. He responded that, going forward, the Select Board should consider funding alternative energy project out of the Solar Fund. He also thought that using some of these funds to start a revolving fund for the charging stations and other alternative energy project would be a good idea.

∴ Mike said that once the pilot is up and running and we have six months or so of data for usage in the 3 seasons when there are more people on the Cape to use the area, we can decide how hard to push for additional charging stations.

Susan suggested that, as the data comes in, we may want to re-prioritize the remaining 11 locations and to get Eversource approval for additional locations, particularly swapping out the approved West Dennis Beach location for Johnny Kelley Park. Mike added that this might be a question for Power Options...how do we get Eversource out to look at the next 4 or 5 options

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

- **Master Plan for Solar Town-Wide**

Mark reported that this is on hold until we can pursue the case of a part-time energy consultant and the development of a master plan.

- ∴ He noted that when the Eversource contractor did the assessment for charging stations at West Dennis Beach, access to the grid was limited, but if we could put a solar canopy there, we could conceivably use this to power charging stations at the West Dennis Beach location. There are a lot of angles such as this that we need a consultant to sort through.
- ∴ Mike felt that we needed to find out from Cape Light Compact how Brewster got the part-time use of their energy consultant. Susan suggested that it might be worthwhile to go back to Brewster Town Manager Lombardi for his take on the process since he had been so forthcoming in the past. Of particular interest would be where they got the money to pay the first-year salary before they started receiving lease money for their solar canopies. **Mike will follow up with Peter Lombardi. He will try to get this done before he leaves town next week.**
- ∴ Susan added that the guidelines for our Green Communities Designation Grant (Round 13) allowed for up to 20% of the Green Communities funds—not to exceed \$50,000—could be used as seed money for a long-term Energy Manager position. She supposed that seed money meant the first year’s salary until a more permanent source of funding could be obtained. **Susan will try to find out whether there are funds available beyond the Designation Grant when she contacts Green Communities.**

- **Residential Wind**

No discussion

UNANTICIPATED BUSINESS

- **Status of the Solar Panels on the Police Station**

- ∴ John suggested that we ask Greg Rounseville to check on the status of the solar panels since he was instrumental in getting the grant that funded them and oversaw their installation. **Tom will follow up with Greg.** Everyone agreed that it was surprising what a small contribution that installation made to the overall electric bill at the police station. Mike felt that their communications systems were a big draw. Tom added that there are a lot of requirements for their certification such as lighting levels, cooling and heating, and especially communications. Susan mentioned that at the time that the solar panel were installed, the police department was the second highest energy user in town next to street lights; now that the street lights have been converted to LED, it is probably the highest user.

- ∴ Mark asked whether the police department energy draws are captured in our Schedule Z every year. Mike felt that that should be the case. Susan asked under whose auspices Schedule Z falls. Mike thought it must fall under the auspices of the accounting department. Tom thought it might come under CVEC since they monitor production of the Solar Brightfield. Mark explained that Schedule Z is a breakdown of every meter in town compared with the solar production at the Brightfield. **Mark will try to get a copy of the most recent Schedule Z from either Accounting or Cape Light Compact.** Susan suggested that once we find out who prepares the Schedule Z, we place a review and discussion of the Schedule Z as an annual topic for our agenda.
- ∴ Mike noted that if an upgrade of the police station solar array is warranted, this might be a good candidate for a Green Communities competitive grant, given the high energy draw.

- **Recording of Committee Meetings**

Mark noted that at his last Road Safety Task Force meeting, Select Board member Jim Plath was thinking that meetings of all committees should be recorded into the Town system. Mark didn't think this was necessary for the AEC since Susan, as the Secretary, was providing detailed minutes which are posted each month, but this might come up in the future. The downside would be that we might be forced to use Channel 18 instead of our own Zoom link which would mean we would have to coordinate with Town staff to make this happen. Mike said that when he made the request of the Town's IT department to help with remote meetings, he was told to that there was no town Zoom link for us to use. Susan noted that all our Zoom meetings using Mark's personal account are recorded and that she downloads the recording each month in order to do the minutes. It would be easy enough to post that audio/video recording, if we are ever required to do so. It was agreed that we would cross that bridge when we come to it.

- **Schedule for the Next Meeting**

The first Monday in July is July 3, the Monday of July 4 weekend. Therefore, the next meeting will be Monday, July 10—100% Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Move to adjourn. Motion made by David L.; seconded by Mark. Vote: unanimous
Adjourned: 5:50 pm.