

22 APR 15 3:42PM
R. COLLINS
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK
ASST

APPROVED at 4/14/22 Meeting
Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes March 10th, 2022
NEXT MEETING WILL BE April 14th at (4:30 pm)

Present: Paul Cass, David Jacobsen, Susan Chandler, Hakim Janah, John Londa and Michael Herman

Virtually present: Martin Culik

Call to Order: Susan Chandler called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Announcements:

Susan announced that Committee members will be granted read access to MA Energy Insight. Susan will coordinate this for the committee members.

Susan reminded committee members to please sign and return your annual conflict of interest forms to the Town Clerk.

Susan reported on the March 1st meeting of the Outer Cape Climate Change Committees with Julian Cyr. Please direct questions to Carol Harris at carol_harris@comcast.net

Review of minutes: The February committee meeting minutes were approved with the following amendments:

- David Jacobsen was virtually present for the meeting
- Martin's last name was incorrectly spelled with a "K" rather than a "C."
- Page 2 clarification, change "to gain" access to...(MA energy insight)
- Fix typographical errors on page 3, paragraph four.

Vote: Unanimous approval 7-0-0

Green Community Update: Ron Collins sent the committee an updated report outlining future projects being considered. His suggestion is to replace the Orleans Elementary School's (OES) gas fired air handlers serving the Library and the K-2 wing. They are in need of repair and possible updating of HVAC equipment and engineering. David explained that Mass Saves funding monies can only be used for "incremental" cost upgrades, not the total cost when evaluating equipment, especially when it is at the end of its useful life. There was a question whether these pieces of equipment were the best use of Green Community Funds and whether a more comprehensive look at the school and community needs had been done.

Motion: Made by Martin to endorse Ron's recommendations and recommend he works with Cape Light Compact to get their input on what could be the best scenario. David seconded the motion.

VOTE: 6-0-1.

The committee asked whether this project could qualify for other sources of funding, i.e. COVID HVAC improvements for schools.

Nauset Beach EV Charging Station Potential

The committee discussed the memo from Ron Collins email about charging stations at the Nauset Beach parking lot:

Ron noted that the DPW recommendation would be to place EV charging stations in the lower level parking lot, as it will remain the primary lot until it is washed away. This was identified as a problem. However, there is a utility pole there. Charge Point is the station and billing provider. The EV station at Depot Square is currently losing money but Charge Point had recommended charging more and establishing a sit time rule or incentive structure to not let people park for long times, rather than charge and go. Susan and David both tried to get some general price quotes from other suppliers but did not receive calls back from the vendors. David noted that Eversource provides significant funding for charging station installation, both the charger itself and the wiring. Even if that money has already been allocated, it is expected that Eversource will fund more.

Martin mentioned that Ron is a one-man shop and that he is responsible for all of the town buildings. Martin suggested that the committee could try to help him with his work rather than just asking questions which slow him down. David provided the following information:

(1) The Eversource contact name is Steve Conte, EV Project Coordinator, 401-484-2853, steven.conte@eversource.com. Info about incentives can be found at: <https://www.eversource.com/content/ema-c/residential/save-money-energy/explore-alternatives/electric-vehicles/charging-stations>. Steve is willing to help.

(2) Voltrec, one of the leading installers of municipal EV charging stations in MA (they may have done the Depot Square charger and have worked with Barnstable) and seem to be willing to provide an estimate on the cost of installing a charger. Kathleen Connors (Voltrec CEO) provided Mohammed Faiz to help the town. He can be reached at mohammed@voltrek.com. We have not made any formal request as we assume that Ron would do that, but we just wanted to see what was involved and made a basic high level inquiry. David noted that \$.42/kWh rate at Depot Square is the highest around

Solar on the DPW Site

The topic of installing solar on the new DPW building roof was discussed again. Susan agreed to ask Kevin Galligan for a final, declarative statement about why more solar cannot be installed on the DPW building roof. It seems there are state regulations and issue of how the building was built (with bonding) prevents the Town from using a third party solar partner.

Outer Cape Energy Committee Update. Susan reported that Julian Cyr attended the meeting and answered a lot of questions. He talked about the need for the Cape to get ready for some important new legislation. He noted that transportation and buildings are the big contributors to greenhouse gases. There will be a new stretch code for new buildings, both residential and municipal.

Susan announced that the federally funded LIHEAP program can be used to help low income individuals and families pay for heating and cooling.

Municipal Solar in Orleans

John put together a draft of the community engagement plan for municipal solar that was sent out to everyone. He will need to fill in his blanks/placeholders. Data from the MA Energy Insight will be helpful. John would like to see the amount of credits from the site in Freetown. He also would like to know how much solar energy could the town actually generate? He would like to see the net metering contract and the RFP. He'd also like the cost data re: the DPW building roof and why it is planned to generate so much? Susan agreed to ask John Kelly for these data. Question is whether 318 kW could go on the DPW roof based on the Weston & Sampson report (there are no consumption numbers from that building mentioned in the report). The 318 also seems high, so we may have to dig a bit deeper for a more comprehensive explanation. Martin mentioned that committee minutes from September 12, 2019, suggest that the issue with a possible DPW solar installation is that since the building was built with bonding, solar panels could not be added to the roof.

The committee appreciated John's work and discussed how to use such a report as part of our communication outreach. We hope we can post these types of reports on the new town website. David mentioned putting in some bullet points at the end of this plan for items for the public to consider. Susan mentioned focusing the recommendations to be more palatable for the general public. Rich mentioned looking at the document each in our own time and bring recommendations to a future meeting

Shared regional energy position: Martin mentioned that the committee has frequently discussed the need for staffing to help with the goals of the committee. Martin reported that Senator Cyr suggested that there was state funding available for a multi-town energy coordinator position and that Senator Cyr's staff person will be in touch regarding specifics about accessing these funds. Martin will also ask the Cape Light Compact about funding a multi-town energy position.

The committee also discussed the whether the town is going to be hiring additional staffing for facilities management to assist Ron Collings and whether this person could also provide staffing for the committee. Maybe this position could be funded from the savings on the solar installations.

Public Comment:

Agenda items for next month:

Motion to Adjourn, made by Rich seconded by Susan
Vote to adjourn: 8-0-0.

Meeting ended at 6:24pm

Respectfully Submitted

Richard Kendall and Susan Chandler