

**Wellfleet Energy Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of October 26, 2016  
Council on Aging  
7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Richard Elkin, Charles Cole and Lilli-Ann Green

**Guests:** Assistant Town Administrator Brian Carlson

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

A request to tape record the meeting by Lilli-Ann Green was made and the request was granted by the Wellfleet Energy Committee (WEC) Chair, Elkin.

**BUSINESS**

**Solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) Status:** Carlson updated WEC with the proposals he had received following his submittal of Requests for Proposal (RFP) to potential partners who have solar net metering credits and have expressed an interest in entering into a PPA with the town of Wellfleet. He received two proposals. Carlson offered to resubmit the RFP so more vendors would be able to submit proposals to Wellfleet and WEC members agreed they would like Carlson to do so. WEC members agreed they would like the town to enter into an agreement with a reputable company/entity that has a fixed upfront rate. Elkin was in favor of receiving at least 4-5 quotes for an upfront flat rate. Carlson was asked to look into how Wellfleet is charged electricity and if there is a way to streamline the billing.

**Town Meeting Warrant Article 5 Position:** If passed, the warrant article will allow the Board of Selectmen to approve a PPA for solar net metering credits with a vendor after town meeting. The article pros were discussed and the downside risks of entering into an agreement with the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC). CVEC submitted a proposal to Wellfleet. The problems with a business relationship with CVEC discussed are:

- There are no fixed upfront rates.
- CVEC has solvency problems according to a County Commissioner as stated at an Assembly of Delegates meeting.
- CVEC will become insolvent in 3-4 years as projected by the President of CVEC during a follow up phone conversation.
- CVEC projects have had legal problems.
- Towns participating in CVEC projects have paid legal fees to town councils in relation to these projects with legal problems that were over and above the fees anticipated.
- CVEC has recently negotiated a price with the participating towns, but then they have gone back to the towns to ask for a higher rate.
- CVEC for numerous years received millions of dollars from the Cape Light Compact (CLC). The funds are what the Attorney General's office stated was 'illegal tax to rate payers'. The legality of the transfer of these funds to CVEC is in question. (Martha Coakley's administration found problems. Maura Healey's administration has not issued in writing definitive findings regarding these problems.)
- There is an ongoing investigation of CVEC by the Office of the Inspector General.
- If one looks at CVEC from a business standpoint and evaluated if one would like to be a business partner with such an entity, it just doesn't make good common sense to become a business partner with such a venture.

- The Town of Wellfleet should be grateful that concerned citizens took the time and energy to research and stay apprised of CVEC operations, informed Wellfleet Town Officials about issues with CVEC and therefore Wellfleet is NOT a member of CVEC.

Carlson stated that he and the Wellfleet Board of Selectmen would look to the Energy Committee for comment prior to accepting a contract with any company or entity. The concerns outlined were serious and the Board of Selectmen would listen to the public and take their concerns into account.

WEC Meeting suspended: 7:00 pm to join Finance Committee Meeting  
WEC Meeting resumed: 7:50 pm

**Motion:** Cole moved to recommend article 5 on the Town Meeting Warrant. Elkin seconded. Discussion was held and the problems with CVEC were discussed. The motion was amended to: **The Wellfleet Energy Committee recommends article 5 on the Town Meeting Warrant and the Wellfleet Energy Committee wants to be involved in the evaluation and selection process. The Wellfleet Energy Committee supports a proposal to the Town of Wellfleet that has a fixed upfront price from a reputable company/entity.** The motion carried 3-0.

**Ice Bear System Update:** Carlson stated the project has not moved forward to date. He will follow up with next steps.

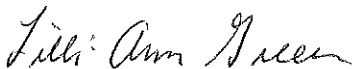
**Correspondence:** None

**New Business:** The next meeting will be held on November 14, 2016.

**Old Business:** None

**Motion:** Cole moved to adjourn the meeting. Green seconded. The motion carried 3-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary