

**Wellfleet Energy Committee  
Minutes of the Meeting of May 17, 2017  
Council on Aging  
7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Richard Elkin, Charles Cole, Lilli-Ann Green, Jeff Tash and Robert Shapiro

**Alternates:** ChristiAne Mason and David Mead-Fox

**Guest:** Brian Carlson, Assistant Town Administrator

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 7:05 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**

**Single Statement Application to Eversource:** A brief overview was given by Elkin which was followed by discussion. Elkin said the intent is to streamline and simplify the billing so net metering opportunities would be easier to manage. There is a software program that tracks the various electric bills the town receives. Mason said it would be helpful if all bills were posted on the same day of the month and asked if it is possible that Wellfleet could designate a certain date. Green proposed conducting due diligence whereby WEC members research aspects of the concept and report back at the next meeting. Elkin will talk with Carlson to see if he can determine how other towns are dealing with this issue and if there are lessons learned.

**Power Purchase agreement update and progress:** *Discuss Implementation of Proposed Goals, Discussion of options available to the town including either purchasing net metering credits, signing a power purchase agreement (PPA) or producing energy in Wellfleet at various sites.* Elkin provided overview that he met with Carlson after the last WEC meeting whereby the WEC had agreed that Elkin ask Carlson to put out a Request for Proposals (RFP) for net metering credit opportunities. Elkin and Carlson talked with a consultant. The consultant told them his opinion of what the average price of net metering contracts is. Carlson did not put out an RFP. He received a letter from the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) with an offer. Both Elkin and Carlson determined based upon the conversation with the consultant that the price CVEC proposed to Wellfleet was a good price. Historically, a town would sign on with a letter of intent to CVEC without knowledge of the price for net metering credits and CVEC would negotiate a price. The town was then obligated to accept. This letter is different in that CVEC has outlined what the proposed price is, subject to negotiation which has not taken place. Mead-Fox expressed that CVEC sounds like a good organization and we should trust them. Tash said that there must be other entities that are competitive with CVEC and it was important for Wellfleet to put out an RFP. We should not just trust the word of one person. It is our obligation to the town to conduct due diligence and see if there are better opportunities available. Green stated that working with CVEC is not a good business proposition, especially because the President of CVEC expressed to the Assembly of Delegates his concerns regarding CVEC's solvency within the next several years. This should be a concern especially since CVEC is asking the town of Wellfleet to sign a 20 year contract with CVEC. Tash expressed concern. He asked that an energy attorney review the proposal following a review by the attorney who represents Wellfleet. His concerns included the proposal and the liability to the town should

CVEC go bankrupt. Mason agreed. Carlson and Elkin said that Liz Argo of CVEC will present to the Wellfleet Board of Selectmen (BoS). The slide deck will be sent to WEC members ahead of the BoS meeting. Elkin said there is a fast timeline. The deal needs to be completed in one month. Therefore, immediately after the BoS meet with Argo, WEC needs to meet. Green asked for a longer timeline to conduct due diligence. This was not met favorably by Elkin. Mason asked that it is required CVEC hold a bond in order to protect Wellfleet and that an RFP be sent out to determine other opportunities. She also asked if there could be a set aside for an energy attorney of \$20,000 in order for proper review. Mead-Fox and Elkin thought it was fine to use the CVEC attorney. Green strongly objected and further stated it may be more cost effective for the town to go back to the original solar photovoltaic plan of constructing solar panels at the landfill location. Her last conversation with the Department of Energy Resources seemed to indicate things have shifted and this may be a better deal for the town than net metering credits through a power purchase agreement with off-site solar panels. Shapiro expressed concern and questioned a 20 year commitment to a technology that is rapidly changing. Mason offered to provide a list of questions for Argo and CVEC. Elkin asked that questions be forwarded to Mason, Carlson and himself. Mason asked that the town attorney review any documentation CVEC sends the town and prepare questions for Argo when she attends the BoS meeting. Elkin said he will ask if the BoS will review the CVEC proposal on May 23 and that WEC meet on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Green asked to postpone both dates due to the questions WEC member have. Elkin did not agree.

**New possibility of a solar parking canopy at one of the town owned beaches:** Elkin provided an overview of this idea. There are subsidies for parking canopies and there seem to be issues with snow plows and the canopies. He therefore proposed canopies for areas that were not plowed which are the town beach lots. Tash strongly objected due to the high winds at such areas. He asked if an RFP could be sent out and possibly a vendor would submit a proposal to address the snow plowing concerns or the high winds. Elkin thought we need to move quickly because the subsidies may be deleted. Mason was concerned that we proceed carefully and that the project makes sense. Green agreed with Tash and Mason.

Shapiro departed the meeting at 8:30 pm

**June 19 meeting at the COA:** *Options for program, including solar, air source heat pumps for AC and heating, air source hot water heaters, CLC presentation on energy conservation programs Program partners including Truro, Eastham, or Provincetown, Mass Audubon, local climate change groups in town, Mass Clean Energy Center.* Elkin spoke about his efforts regarding the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. A discussion was held regarding the content of the program and the presenters. Mead-Fox will create posters. Green spoke about the options of a Massachusetts state sponsored Solarize program versus a program not state sponsored. WEC is looking to the audience for feedback to see if they are interested in heat pumps or electric vehicles as the second technology for the proposed next Solarize program. WEC members spoke about each technology. Cole spoke about his research regarding electric vehicles (EV). He heard that the National Park is proposing to construct charging stations which would be a benefit to driving EVs on the Lower Cape. Mead-Fox spoke about his research into fuel cells and stated the technology is not viable at this time. Green stated WEC needs to talk with the BoS to present the directions we are talking about to see if they approve, especially since we serve as a town committee, and we have been talking about working with other towns and looking at new programs such as the

Solarize program. She also said it was important to talk with them about the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for their approval and to invite them if approved.

**Correspondence:** None

**Green Communities Next Grant - Status:** The grant was accepted by the Department of Energy Resources.

**Website Review:** Tash has posted a number of new and innovative articles to the website in the past month including an article about electric vehicles.

**New Business:** A new group in town working on climate change is holding a meeting on May 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Minutes of the April 19, 2017 meeting<sup>1</sup>:**

**Motion:** Elkin moved to accept minutes as emailed with agenda of meeting. Seconded by Green. The motion carried 4 in favor, 1 abstention Mason.

**Motion:** Tash moved to adjourn the meeting. Cole seconded. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

<sup>1</sup> Draft Minutes of the 4-19-17 WEC meeting