

Town Of Sandwich
Energy Committee
Minutes of Meeting – August 7, 2008

Approved September 4, 2008

Attendance: (voting) Kevin Burgess, Anna Burroughs-Merrill, Robert Gottsche, Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig, Damien Houlihan, Charles Kleekamp, Eric Nelson, Kathleen Yetman. Not Present: Thomas Doherty, Sara Murray.

Guest attendees: Representative Jeff Perry, Gene Schott (Greenbriar Nature Center), Taylor White (Planning Board).

Votes Taken

Article 1: Motion to nominate Eric Nelson to be Chairperson of SEC made by Damien Houlihan. Seconded by numerous members. Vote: unanimous.

Article 2: Motion to nominate Damien Houlihan to be Associate Chairperson of SEC made by Charles Kleekamp. Seconded by numerous members. Vote: unanimous.

Article 3: Motion to nominate Anna Burroughs-Merrill to continue on as Clerk made by Eric Nelson. Seconded by numerous members. Vote: unanimous.

Article 4: Motion to approve June 5, 2008 Minutes made by Anna Burroughs-Merrill. Seconded by Eric Nelson. Vote: unanimous.

Article 5: Motion to recommend the Planning Board create a subcommittee to draft zoning bylaws regulating municipal and commercial wind turbines made by Anna Burroughs-Merrill. Seconded by Damien Houlihan. Vote: unanimous.

General Discussion

Presentation of “Happy Jack Thrift Club” Award: The SEC and Greenbriar Nature Center awarded member Charles Kleekamp the Thornton Burgess “Happy Jack Thrift Club” award for recognition of all his hard work in guiding the Sandwich Energy Committee. The “Happy Jack Thrift Club” award was created by Thornton Burgess during WWII to encourage children to contribute to the war effort.

Presentation of Funds: SEC member Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig presented Gene Schott of Greenbriar Nature Center with funds raised by Sandwich schoolchildren to help the Center feed the bunnies and other small animals.

Legislative Update: Representative Jeff Perry summarized legislative progress on green and energy issues this past session. The state legislature passed 6 new pieces of non-partisan legislation. To summarize:

- Oceans Bill - creates a first-in-the-nation ocean planning process to safeguard our marine resources. Establishes an ocean advisory commission and an ocean science advisory council to assist the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs with the ocean planning process. Ensures existing uses of the ocean, like fishing and boating, are protected.
- Green Communities Act - comprehensive energy reform package to encourage energy efficiency and promote the development of renewable energy resources. The State will make energy efficiency programs compete in the market with traditional energy supply. Utility companies will offer rebates and other incentives for customers to upgrade lighting, appliances, air conditioning and industrial equipment to more efficient models whenever those incentives cost less than generating the electricity it would take to power their older, less-efficient equipment.
- Green Jobs Bill - establishes the Massachusetts Clean Energy Technology Center to serve as the State's lead agency to promote and develop the clean energy sector. The Center will promote workforce training in the clean energy sector and provide support to existing clean energy companies in the Commonwealth through the establishment and administration of job growth grants. Creates two types of job growth grants to be administered by the Center: Clean Energy Seed Grants and Green Jobs Initiative Grants.
- Environmental Bond Bill - will preserve and improve the Commonwealth's "green infrastructure" through targeted investments in open spaces, parks, beaches, and recreation facilities across Massachusetts. \$1.78 billion total, provides \$600 million in borrowing authority for infrastructure and park assets, \$250 million for design and construction of DCR-maintained bridges and over \$350 million for land conservation.
- Phosphorous Bill - phases out the sale of dishwasher detergent containing phosphorous, which leads to algae blooms and fish kills. Allows for a sufficient period for retailers to clear out their inventory before selling only the cleaner detergents.
- Land Conservation Tax Incentives - provides a State income tax credit to encourage landowners to donate property or to sell it for conservation land at below the assessed value. State as loses 40 acres of land every day to development. Undeveloped open-space land important.

Rep. Perry and the SEC then discussed in detail the Green Communities Act. Utility companies are required to purchase all renewable power out there available at a competitive price (less than or equal to traditional sources of energy). This is the wholesale rate. The bill eliminates “side deals” that shut out renewables. The state needs more disclosures by industry about energy costs so it can enforce. Requires 10-15 year contracts with renewable energy producers. This will set a stable price for renewable and also allow better financing. Requires utility companies to offer rebates/incentives for customers to upgrade. Promotes renewable (biomass, solar, wind, etc.). Not sure if would include run-of-the-mill hydroelectric. Net metering up to 2 MW per customer, 60 KW. Producers compensated at the *retail rate*, not the wholesale rate. All producers, not just municipalities. Anticipated that Mass will install 250 MW solar by 2017. Makes state and municipal power greener. “Green Communities Division” created within Mass Dept. of Energy, funded \$10 mil. People being hired to run. Doubles rate of increase in renewable portfolio to 1%/yr. One funding source bill is REC’s (offset credits). All part of RGGI.

Wind Turbine By-Law: The SEC discussed zoning needed to regulate large-scale municipal and commercial wind turbines with Planning Board Associate-Chair Taylor White. SEC considered

simply amending the existing residential bylaw, but felt large turbines need more stringent zoning. SEC would like to site a municipal turbine to offset towns energy costs. Better to have town meeting approve zoning before siting test towers. Other towns have run into problems with zoning themselves too narrowly then discovering the remaining sites did not generate enough wind to be economically feasible, so actual wind speeds should dictate placement. Several businesses in town also researching turbines, including an apartment complex. Barnstable, Falmouth have several going up in near future. Time a factor ... if bylaw isn't submitted to town meeting next May, could possibly have to wait until May of 2010 to get in place. Bylaw would need to be finished by mid-January to make town meeting. Mr. White suggested asking the Town Planner to coordinate setting up a Subcommittee of the Planning Board to draft the new by-law(s) as was done for the residential by-law. He is willing to co-chair this subcommittee as he did for the residential bylaw. Anna Burroughs-Merrill will contact Greg Smith to get the ball rolling. Should we invite Historic and/or District to join? Would like public participation, have announcement in Enterprise. Anna, Charles Kleekamp, and Bob Goettsche willing to serve on new subcommittee. Should we combine into one by-law? SEC voted to make recommendation to Planning Board to form subcommittee, draft bylaws.

Solar Grant Update: Damien Houlihan met with the Selectmen regarding the proposed plan to install solar panels (probably at the Human Services Building). Selectman Frank Pannorfi suggested that a joint meeting with the Historic committee be put on the fall agenda. Randy Hunt questioned the economics of solar panels. The Selectmen were very supportive of the idea. Damien will be meeting with Doug Lapp and Ted Hamilton on August 22nd at 11:00 a.m. to discuss alternate locations, specs, and the RFP process.

MTC Renewable Energy Trust – Community Solar announced a competitive program to provide solar lighting for one town of a prominent town landmark. The town must name a site and provide photos in the competitive bid. SEC discussed possible sites. The monument at the end of Jarves Street (center island near Brown Jug) is a possibility and gets enough sun to power solar lights. The monument at Town Hall would qualify, but the site has large evergreen trees which block the sunlight so it may not be feasible. Laura Gregorio-Tanguilig will research further.

Cape Light Compact 2nd Regional Conference: Second meeting will be held on September 24th at the Truro Central School on Route 6 in Truro at 4:00 p.m. This is a follow-up meeting to the one held at Sandwich Hollows.

Proposed Topics for Next Meeting: (subject to change prior to posting of official Agenda):

- Community Energy Challenge
- Maggie Downey, Cape Light Compact

Adjournment: moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. made by Kathy Yetman. Motion seconded by Bob Gottsche. Unanimous vote.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. at the Recreation Department in the Human Services Building.