

**Recycling and Renewable Energy Committee**  
**Minutes from 8 October 08, 5:15-6:45pm, Town Hall, Provincetown**

**Attending: Connie Black, Mike Leger, Amy Germain, Jane Donoghue, Lee Bartell, and observing is David Bedard from our Selectboard**

**Previous minutes: Jane moved to accept as written, Connie seconded, 5/0.**

**Introductions: Mike introduced both Maggie Downey from the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (Coop), and David Bedard, Selectman.**

**Maggie's presentation: first Mike gave her our history, the FAA statement, etc., and how he's been dealing with Chris Clark at MTC (Mass. Technical Collaborative), but found out that he's moved on to the private sector, so now, under Elizabeth Kennedy, there's a man named Tyler Leeds, who'll be our new contact. He had told Mike that LORI (Large Onsite Renewable Initiative), 660kWh, may be what we need, but the deadline to apply is next Thursday, with the possibility that another opportunity to apply may happen in 6 months.**

**We had a long discussion about the fact that the FAA mandates a 2-mile clearance from the airport, which rules out the Transfer Station, but we wonder about Mt. Gilboa. The DPW could clear this up for us, but Mike said that he could do it at home. (Please let us know what you find.) Maggie told us that 2 weeks ago, she met with the Town Managers and Town Counsel for Harwich and Brewster, and so far, so good. The materials given to towns have been given the thumbs up from the IRS, so that the Coop can sell the energy without needing to tax it. She passed out the materials to us. There's lower cost financing for this: under the Dept. of Agriculture, there's the Rural Electrical Project, which funds the RUS (Rural Utility Service) for which we qualify; there are CREBS (Clean Renewable Energy Bonds); and somewhat reasonable bridge loans, if necessary.**

**Fast forward to the day that we have wind turbines up in town; the Coop receives 10% of the annual energy output, and we are entitled to net meter up to 90% of the energy output from any municipal projects. Net Metering is a method of crediting us for electricity that we generate on site in excess of our own electricity consumption. This 90/10 means that the town joins, is the host town, with all the assets owned by the Coop, which will lease payment to us, and then we get up to 90% of the output. If we do not need all of our 90%, the remaining energy output shall be allocated to other Coop members on a pro rata basis. Maggie told us that our short-term goal would be to net meter the entire load.**

**Solar power has a place in town, too, as Maggie believes that our town will end up with a combination of alternative energies, not just one. There's a private entity, partnering with the Coop, which wants to invest \$5-10 million in PV (PhotoVoltaic) installations, which it would own for the first 15 years, then ownership flips to the Coop. Host town participates in virtual net metering estimated savings of 7 cents per kWh over the life of the system. It's how energy priced at 22 cents/kWh can go down to 15 cents/kWh, as charges can be deferred. The private company can have production tax credits, plus depreciation, too. It's looking for a huge roof to do in town, so we suggested the schools, the Shank Painter St. Firehouse, the Airport, for some possibilities. We need to work on**

this soon, as it's an amazing opportunity. We also need to ask the MTC, Tyler Leeds, or whomever, to come talk to us about various size wind turbines, esp. 100 kWh towers.

Nov. 3rd: Selectboard meeting with our committee and Maggie Downey giving a presentation.

Recycling Bins: We had a long discussion about our frustration that recycling pick-ups in town are so limited to the very center of town. It's as if the town wants no Commercial St. recycling of cans and bottles fall through spring. We really want the town to know that by recycling more, keeping recyclables out of the trash cans, there will be less trash to pay to haul away, and in the end, we'll save enough money to pay someone to pick up our recyclables in a trailer behind his bike.

Single Stream: Jane reported that we're just too far for it to work, at least for now.

Plastic Bags: Connie mentioned that there was a great article about them in the NYTimes, and that some places are taxing plastic bags, while other places give you credit for bringing in a re-usable bag.

Adjourned: Lee moved to adjourn, Connie seconded, 4/0.

Next Meeting: Wed., 12 November 2008, 5pm, Town Hall