

Island Energy Plan Committee
Thursday, January 21, 2010
Town Hall, Old Town Road
12:00 noon

Present: Ken Lacoste, Peter Baute, Kevin Hoyt and Barbara MacMullan. Committee member Neil Lang was absent. Also present were Town Planner Jane Weidman, Town Council member Ray Torrey and for the recording of minutes, Deputy Town Clerk Millie McGinnes.

The meeting was called to order at 12:01 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding the selection of a Chair for the Committee. Mr. Lacoste and Dr. Baute both volunteered for the position. Later in the meeting, Mr. Lacoste suggested that Dr. Baute should act as Chair.

Develop Committee Charge

Following discussion, the Committee members developed the following charge:

1. Establish an Energy Component to the Town of New Shoreham's Comprehensive Plan.
2. Consider, evaluate and recommend to the Town Council a prioritized series of interventions and programs which would allow Block Island to become more sustainable with regard to energy uses.

Planner Weidman distributed a document listing goals, results and issues she had drawn up (attached). A list of items to be further discussed and examined was developed as follows:

- Electricity production and consumption
- Other fuel usage/costs/efficiencies
- Transportation costs (including goods and services)
- Solid waste/recycling
- Regulatory changes (net metering, rate-payer co-op, Restructuring Act exemption)
- Building code and zoning regulations (incentives)
- Municipal Energy District
- Public Education
- Siting for wind turbines
- Bio-diesel
- Appliances
- Energy Audits
- Examination of energy plans and efficiencies from other similar towns (Island Institute in Maine was noted to be a good resource. Planner Weidman will begin such investigation.)

It was decided that the Committee would prioritize the list at their next meeting.

It was noted that items will need to be examined for both commercial and residential uses and also need to be reviewed from two separate perspectives: the island as connected to the mainland with a power cable; and the island as not connected, generating power locally. Mr. Lacoste stated that he thought it was important to ensure examined items were not a hazard and served the community as a whole.

Develop Meeting Schedule

The Committee decided to hold monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. The next meeting will be held February 10, 2010.

Discussion ensued regarding appointing other members to the Committee. The following people were suggested:

- Scott Comings (Dr. Baute will confirm Mr. Comings' willingness to serve.)
- Sam Bird (Mr. Lacoste will confirm Mr. Bird's willingness to serve.)
- Russell Littlefield (Mr. Lacoste will confirm Mr. Littlefield's willingness to serve.)

Dr. Baute noted that he could represent the Block Island Residents Association (BIRA).

Mr. Torrey noted that the American Recovery Act, which will be providing grant opportunities, requires that a strategic plan is provided by the grant applicant. He distributed a list of items(attached) that should be considered and/or included in the strategic plan and noted there was an April 16, 2010 deadline. The Commission committed to working on the strategic plan.

Ms. Weidman reminded the Commission members that they have the use of the GIS mapping system through GIS Specialist Martha Roldan.

With no further business to discuss, Ms. MacMullan made a motion to adjourn at 1:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacoste and carried unanimously.

Millie McGinnes
Deputy Town Clerk

Approved: April 14, 2010