

**Electric Utilities Task Group
Monday, March 28, 2016
Town Hall, Old Town Road
12:30 p.m.**

Present: Chair Barbara MacMullan; Members – Bill Penn and Everett Shorey. Also present, for the recording of the minutes, was Millie McGinnes.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara MacMullan at 12:31 p.m.

1. Public Input

The April meeting was rescheduled to Friday, April 15, 2016 at 2:30 P.M.

Ms. MacMullan reported that the rate payer's informational public meeting went well and was well attended. The meeting was videoed and the video will be posted on the Town's website.

2. Approve minutes of meetings January 25, 2016 and February 22, 2016

Mr. Penn moved to approve the minutes of February 22, 2016. Mr. Shorey seconded the motion and it carried.

3 Ayes (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey) 0 Nays

It was noted that the minutes for January 25, 2016 are not yet available.

3. Deepwater Update

Bryan Wilson of Deepwater Wind reported the following:

- National Grid is conducting and responsible for all of the work from Corn Neck Road to and including the substation at BIPCO.
- The drilling at town beach is complete and ready to accept the sea to shore cable and the export cable to the mainland. The next step will include installing a transit area under the north parking lot of the beach.
- The site, including the dunes, will be restored to preexisting conditions.
- The cable, shipped from Hong Kong, has arrived.
- On-site turbine assembly should begin in midsummer.
- They broke ground in Quonset for infrastructure housing.

Mr. Wilson explained the cable laying process, turbine assembly, electronics and personnel transport in detail.

4. Discuss and Act on BIPCO Waiver Request

Ms. MacMullan reported that on March 7th, BIPCO applied for a waiver to allow them to generate power after the cable is up and running. She noted that further testimony from BIPCO is needed before a full analysis can be completed. Once the testimony is received, the EUTG will make a recommendation to the Town Council regarding the waiver.

5. Discussion of BIPCO Restructuring/Rate Case Issues

Ms. MacMullan explained that there are no new issues regarding the rate case, as the process is waiting on the progress of the waiver request. Ms. MacMullan suggested asking Energy New England, BIPCO's energy consultants, to come and make a presentation.

5. Discuss of Creation of Electric Utility Cooperative/Electric Utility District

Ms. MacMullan stated that it would be a good exercise to research a comparison of the creation of an energy coop to the creation of a utility district to determine what would make a better fit for Block Island. Mr. Penn stated that the EUTG should make a recommendation to the Town Council to create legislation allowing for the creation of a coop or a district. It was suggested that Town Manager Dodge reach out to Senator Sosnowski to gauge National Grid's receptiveness to the subject.

Ms. MacMullan will reach out to Pascoag and REA to garner information on a cooperative vs. a district.

At 1:28 p.m., Ms. MacMullan moved to enter into closed session pursuant to §42-46-5(a)(5): "Any discussion or considerations related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes, or of the disposition of publicly held property wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public" and §42-46-5(a)(7): "A matter related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest. Public funds shall include any investment plan or matter related thereto, including but not limited to state lottery plans for new promotions." The motion was seconded by Mr. Shorey and carried.

3 Ayes (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey) 0 Nays

At 2:00 p.m. Ms. MacMullan moved to come out of closed session and seal the minutes of the closed session meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Penn and carried

3 Ayes (MacMullan, Penn, Shorey) 0 Nays

At 2:00 p.m., with no further business to discuss, Mr. Shorey moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Penn and voted unanimously.

Millie McGinnes

Minutes Approved: 4/27/2016