

Regular Meetings are held the first Monday of the month

The Old Statehouse 240 High Street Bristol, RI

8:30 a.m.

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

Monday January 9, 2012

Present: Jeanne Napolitano, Beth Milham – Newport; Dennis Culberson, Gary Plunkett – Tiverton; Gary Gump – Portsmouth; Daniel Mendelsohn – ASA; Eric Busch – Rustpoint; Christine Weglowski Forster – Middletown; Caroline Wells – Warren; Jeanne Boyle, Wayne Barnes – East Providence; Joe Fraioli - Little Compton; Diane Williamson – Bristol; Tom Moses - Moses & Afonso; Sarah Cookson – AIPC; Tim Faulkner – EcoRI News

1. Call to order - xxx

2. Approval of December 2011 minutes. xxx

3. Guest presentation/ Sarah Cookson, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission (AIPC): Cookson was welcomed back and thanked the board for the opportunity to speak. Cookson continued discussing AIPC proposal to act as an “energy clearinghouse” for information on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and the RIEDC Renewable Energy Fund. ACTION: consideration on the question of supporting AIPC - “On advice of counsel, that the letter of recommendation would be outside the scope of empowerment of this body, EBEC will

take no action.” Forster/Wells; Unanimous.

4. Project Manager’s Report/ Eric Busch: Status report sent out on Jan. 5th,

a. Site Control: A tentative meeting date of Jan 30th with the Tiverton Town Council, water & fire districts and private land holders.

b. Tiverton Town Council: EBEC should aim for a discussion and workshop that focuses on the budget, political situation, thought process, and economics.

c. Project Economics: Busch recommended EBEC be prepared to share numbers for potential lease options, structure, and scale, and give a current position of the project. Looking forward EBEC will consider integrating solar into the proforma.

d. Next Steps, Priorities: Refining approach for the Jan. 30th presentation with Tiverton Town Council. CME energy via East Providence offered to give a preliminary opinion on the use of solar. A meeting with National Grid will be in place by the 30th. Ramping up discussions with political leaders is another priority. After meeting with Sen. Whitehouse’s staff, and following up that meeting with a memo, Whitehouse’s office requested more specific information; Busch will send what is required.

5. EBEC / Tom Moses: Attorney Moses reiterated his report from December that after a review of entity options, Moses’ opinion is that EBEC should form a public agency by legislative act. A draft of the legislation will be available for EBEC’s review within days of this meeting. The draft establishes EBEC’s distinct legal existence from

the state and its constituent municipalities. Moses highlighted that such legislation aims to enumerate EBEC powers and limit the liability of its constituents, directors and officers. The legislation proposes to create a nine member board with appointees from all nine municipalities, in the manner of a corporate board. Other questions raised in the discussion related to involvement of EDC in bond issuing, on designating a megawatt cap, and on net metering. The board agreed that deeper investigation was desired, which includes additional talks with both National Grid and the leadership at both the state and local levels.

6. Executive Session: EBEC moved into executive session with a roll call of necessary members and staff, and offered thanks to visiting guests.

7. Next: special meeting January 23, 2012 at 8:30am.

Motion to open Executive Session by Forster/ G. Plunkett. Unanimous at 9:15

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION - 9:15 a.m.

Pursuant to provisions of R.I.G.L., Sections 42-46-2., 42.46-5. (a) (5) lease or land acquisition (Tiverton parcels), (7) investment of public funds (wind data).

Executive Session

1. Lease or land acquisition (Tiverton parcels)

2. Investment of public funds (wind data)

Motion to seal minutes /end executive session

Forster/ J. Boyle. Unanimous 11:00

Move to adjourn G. Plunkett/ J. Boyle. Adjournment at 11:01

Submitted: Christine Weglowski Forster with Nathan Shorty