

Regular Meetings are held the first Monday of the month

The Old Statehouse 240 High Street Bristol, RI

8:30 a.m.

Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting/Municipal Council Breakfast

Tuesday March 20, 2012

**Roger Williams University Baypoint Conference Center, Portsmouth,
RI**

**Present: Jeanne Napolitano, Garry Plunkett – Tiverton; Gary Gump –
Portsmouth; Daniel Mendelsohn – ASA; Eric Busch – Rustpoint;
Christine Weglowski Forster – Middletown; June Speakman,
Barrington Jeanne Boyle, Wayne Barnes – East Providence; Joe
Fraiola – Little Compton; Diane Williamson, Walter Burke – Bristol;
Caroline Wells, Joseph DePasquale- Warren; Tom Moses, Mark Ryan
– Moses & Afonso; Julian Dash – RI EDC,**

**Ron Wolanski, planner; Barbara VonVilas, Chris Semonelli, Antone
Viveiros of Middletown Town Council (TC)**

Donald Gomez, Bob Mushen of Little Compton TC

**Sen Chris Ottiano, Sen. Teresa Paiva Weed, Patricia Breslin of RI
Legislature**

**Justin Mclaughlin, Harry Winthrop, Naomi Neville of Newport City
Council**

Jay Lambert of Tiverton TC

**Kate Weymouth, planner, Peter A. DeAnfelis, Jr. Town Manager
Barrington**

Davison Bolster of Warren City Council

Diane Medeiros, Town Administrator, Tony Texeira of Bristol TC

Orlando A Andreai (sp) of East Providence

**John Klimm, Town Administrator, Joe Robicheau TC President of
Portsmouth**

Andy Teitz, solicitor to Barrington, Bristol, Tiverton

The purpose of the meeting was to update city and town council members and administrators on the proposed legislation that would create a governmental agency for EBEC. Jeanne Napolitano welcomed the large group, thanked Roger Williams University, RI EDC, and the Rhode Island Foundation for its support of EBEC, and began the presentation at 8:45 a.m. Eric Eric Busch, EBEC project manager, Daniel Mendelsohn, EBEC engineer, and Thomas Moses, EBEC counsel made the presentation. Questions and comments followed.

Chris Semonelli stated that the governmental agency is a terrific idea, sees economies of scale with the collaborative consortium model as a benefit and asked if EBEC was pursuing federal grants. Answer was affirmative, EBEC is in contact with RI Senators and is pursuing possible Department of Energy (DOE) funding. Julian Dash commented that the EDC has been supportive and will continue to

support EBEC because of its collaborative nature, and that the DOE is moving toward pooling resources and interests to support models like EBEC's. Tom Moses stated that the legislation would not create a large bureaucracy, that the Tiverton project would stand alone, and that in the long term the legislation would create a platform for other stand alone projects. Operation and maintenance, and debt servicing would come from the revenue any project.

Harry Winthrop asked if currently in Tiverton wind turbines are allowed by right. Andy Teitz responded no. Garry Plunkett responded that Tiverton has a draft ordinance, but is waiting for the Div of Planning to publish its guidelines for wind turbines and for the RESP to be completed. Sen. Teresa Paiva-Weed stated that is it admirable of cities and towns to cooperate and deserves recognition for working together, that is is difficult for two municipalities to cooperate and EBEC works with nine. Paiva-Weed also stated that she and Sen. Lou DiPalma and Sen. Ottiano are co-sponsors of the Senate bill and that they had some questions about the eminent domain portion of the bill, and had not yet submitted the Senate bill for consideration. However, they were now satisfied with the language of the bill and would be submitting the Senate bill shortly. Paiva-Weed also stated that the Div. Of Planning's work product would be guidelines and that local ordinances would comply with comprehensive plans and the state plan.

Kate Weymouth and Peter DeAngelis of Barrington had a question about excess generation. Dan Mendelsohn responded that it is anticipated that the electricity generated at the Tiverton project will

not exceed the combined municipal load of the nine member municipalities.

Harry Winthrop posed a question about the eminent domain power and the exercise of the board member of the potential host community's vote. In the legislation, the exercise of the power of eminent domain in a municipality, an eventuality that is not anticipated, would require a not only a majority vote, but the majority must include the vote of the board member from the potential host community. His question was is the vote of the council required to avoid what he called a "rogue council member". The response was that the board member is appointed by the council.

Question from Kate Weymouth: If a PV installation is incorporated into the wind project, will there be a market for the excess generation. Julian Dash responded that National Grid is required by law to purchase a certain amount of renewable energy each year.

Joe Fraioli asked if the project would use the 5 MW allocation of cities and towns. Tom Moses responded that the legislation would allow the project and other projects to proceed and the towns would retain their 5MW allowance for their own projects.

Chris Semonelli said that the presentation and the work of EBEC represented lots of work and the cities and towns should see it through.

Cities and towns were asked to vote to approve the legislation through a resolution and a copy of the resolution was provided to each participant, and would be forwarded to all cities and towns electronically.

The meeting ended at 9:45 a.m.

Submitted by Christine Weglowski Forster