

Town of Orleans Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes June 29, 2023

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON July 13, 2023, AT 4:15 PM

Note: A video recording of this meeting can be found at
<https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/zzV8HNURw1G02-ue3gIR7BRTpl-bknl/>.

Present: John Londa (Chair), Susan Chandler, Kevin Clements, Martin Culik, David Jacobson, Hakim Janah, Roger McDaniel

Absent: Paul Cass.

Also not attending: Andrea Shaw Reed, Select Board Liaison, and Bailey Nobili, a student representative of Nauset Schools.

Invited Guests: Ron Collins, Facilities Manager, Orleans Department of Public Works & Natural Resources (“DPW”); and, via Zoom, Lisa Sullivan, Regional Coordinator, Green Communities, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (“DOER”)

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm by the Chairman.

Announcements

John Londa notified the Energy and Climate Action Committee (the “Committee”) that, because emails are public records, all emails between members of the Committee should include a cc to commail@town.orleans.ma.us, in order to meet the requirements regarding official records.

Mr. Londa announced that the new Town Manager for the Town of Orleans (the “Town”) has been invited to the Committee’s July 13 meeting.

Energy Manager

Hakim Janah reported on the following developments toward the Committee’s goal that the Town hire a part-time Energy Manager.

1. The Select Board, on June 14, 2023, expressed support for the concept of hiring a part-time energy manager, including having the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting in October include such a plan.
2. Margaret Song, of Cape Light Compact (“CLC”) has said that CLC is considering hiring an employee who could act as a part-time energy manager for each of four or five towns on Cape Cod, with CLC hiring, training, and supervising that employee (a “Shared Energy Manager”), although the participating towns would be responsible for funding the Shared Energy Manager’s salary and benefits. In addition to Orleans, Yarmouth, Dennis and Brewster have expressed interest in this approach, which is expected to be on the agenda for the meeting of the Town Managers of various Cape towns on July 13. David Jacobson reported that some interest in participating has been expressed by Eastham.

3. The Town can explore funding a portion of Orleans' financial obligation for a Shared Energy Manager through a Green Communities grant to better establish the possibilities and applicable restrictions.
4. For reference, a rough estimate of the total annual cost for an energy manager is \$150,000, including benefits.
5. For a Shared Energy Manager to take effect would require the approval of the CLC board as well as the participating towns, and the earliest date for job commencement is probably January 1, 2024.

Lisa Sullivan of DOER was asked to describe the ability of the Town to use Green Communities funding for the Town's share of the Shared Energy Manager. She reported that the Town has a grant application open that could be used to pay up to 20 percent of the first designation grants towards funding the cost of an energy manager as seed funding. That grant would not permit funds to be used for both administrative costs (under a Regional Energy Planning Assistance ("REPA") Grant, currently supporting the Town's ongoing Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with CLC) and seed funding for a Shared Energy Manager. Consequently, the MOU with CLC would need to be terminated if and when grant community support shifts to the town's allocated costs of a Shared Energy Manager.

The Committee discussed various features of a Shared Energy Manager, including the benefits of a shared resource among neighboring Green Community cities under the supervision of CLC, as well as factors to be considered in planning and executing the Town's role.

Mr. Janah made a motion that the Select Board should build upon its support for a part-time energy manager by having the Town Manager attend the July 13 meeting and express support for CLC hiring a Shared Energy Manager, as well as the town's interest in participating. The motion was seconded by Mr. Londa and approved unanimously.

Mr. Londa asked Mr. Janah to draft a memo to brief the Town Manager, and to the effect approved in the motion just passed.

Presentation to Select Board Regarding the Specialized Opt-in Code

Roger McDaniel circulated within the Committee the draft slides he has prepared for presenting to the Select Board the Specialized Opt-in Code that the Commonwealth has made available through DOER, and he did a dry run of the presentation for the Committee. Members of the Committee and Ms. Sullivan made a number of suggestions to improve the presentation, as well as for presenting the material to other departments and committees in the Town, as well as other relevant audiences. Mr. McDaniel said that he would circulate a revision of the draft presentation to the Committee.

Fourth Quarter Committee Report

Mr. Londa announced that he would circulate a draft report covering the Committee's activities in April-June for comment by the members of the Committee.

Meeting with Town Manager

Mr. Londa reported that he would be presenting the new Town Manager a status report on the Committee's stated goals.

Report of DPW

Mr. Collins of DPW reported the following:

1. The DPW has provided to the Interim Town Manager, Charles Sumner, for his signature, applications for rebates by Eversource of the costs of electric vehicle ("EV") chargers.
2. The DPW has submitted an application for a high-voltage direct-current ("DC") charger (a Level 3 fast charging station) for EV batteries for Depot Square, in addition to the EV charging stations at Nauset Beach, and has received a proposal from Maverick Energy, Inc. to provide and install a DC charger for about \$56,000. The DC charger is expected to be in the warrant for the Special Town Meeting to take place on October 18, 2023.
3. Mr. Collins and Tom Daley of the DPW met with Charles Sumner, Tom Ford (Town Counsel), and Alan McClennen (Chair, Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners) to discuss the proposed solar panel installation near the water plant on the Town watershed. The tentative plan is to install solar panels on the Town watershed, to operate them on a behind-the-meter basis, and to self-finance the project rather than engaging a third-party developer. In addition, under Section 13801 of the Federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, the Town may be eligible for grants and assistance and should be entitled to receive direct payments equal to the tax credits that would have been available if the Town were a taxpayer.
4. The DPW will pursue the replacement of the air compressor at the water treatment facility as a potential solution that could qualify for the application of Green Community funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger McDaniel
Committee Clerk