

Town of Orleans Energy and Climate Action Committee  
Minutes August 10, 2023  
THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2023, AT 4:15 PM

Note: A video recording of this meeting can be found at  
<https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/zzV8HNURw1G02-ue3gIR7BRTpl-bknl/series/4129/media/817109?autostart=true&showtabssearch=true>.

Present: John Londa (Chair), Paul Cass, Susan Chandler, Kevin Clements, David Jacobson, Hakim Janah.

Absent: Roger McDaniel.

Also not attending: Bailey Nobili, a student representative of Nauset Schools.

Invited Guests: Ron Collins, Facilities Manager in the Town's Department of Public Works and Natural Resources; Tessa Cochran English of the Orleans Climate Action Network.

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 4:16 pm by the Chair.

Public Comment: None.

Department of Public Works and Natural Resources

Facilities Manager Ron Collins reported on the following topics:

1. Arrangements are proceeding for the hiring by Cape Light Compact of an energy manager to be shared by multiple Cape towns. The Town of Orleans share of the energy manager's time is projected to be 7.25 hours per week. Mr. Collins said that he would forward relevant material to the Orleans Town Manager.
2. They are proceeding to include one or more Articles in the Warrant for the October 16 Special Town Meeting to enable the development of a ground-mount solar array at the Town's water treatment plant on the Town watershed. It is intended to be a behind-the-meter project.
3. They are planning to replace two Town Hall distribution pumps with variable speed pumps, which will be more energy-efficient than the current pumps, and they may enable the use of Green Communities funding.
4. EV chargers:
  - a. They are planning to include the installation of DC-current fast chargers for electric vehicles (EVs) at Depot Square in an Article at the October 16 Special

Town Meeting. The existing power pole, which supplies the existing level 2 EV chargers at Depot Square, is not capable of powering the fast chargers, so they are exploring erecting an additional pole for the fast chargers.

- b. A separate Town Meeting Warrant Article is being prepared for Level 2 chargers at Nauset Beach.

#### Orleans Climate Action Network (“OCAN”)

Tessa English of OCAN reported on its activity distributing material to advertise the presentations sponsored by OCAN to notify Orleans residents about the proposed Specialized Opt-In Energy Code.

#### Home-Rule Petition to Reduce the Use of Pesticides

The Committee discussed whether to support the Article at the Special Town Meeting on October 15 to submit a home-rule petition to the State Legislature to enable the Town of Orleans to “Reduce the Use of Pesticides in the Town of Orleans.” Susan Chandler made a motion for the Committee to send a letter of support for the Article. The motion was seconded by Paul Cass. The Committee approved the motion unanimously.

#### Green Communities Funding

Mr. Londa reported that he had met with the Town Manager and encouraged the Town to develop a plan to forward to DOER to expend the remaining \$85k of Green Communities funds for consideration.

#### Specialized Opt-In Code Activities

The Committee discussed the presentations being made to Town committees and the public regarding the Specialized Opt-In Energy Code proposed to be added to the Town Building Code as an expansion of the existing Stretch Code.

#### Green Communities Program and Town Vehicles

Mr. Londa brought to the attention of the Committee the requirements of Criterion Four of the Green Communities Program, relating to the purchase of fuel-efficient vehicles by Green Communities. The Committee discussed this issue, and the Mr. Londa agreed to ask Town government for the Town’s recent and current policy regarding the purchase of Town vehicles, an inventory of Town vehicles, and the Town’s written policy in compliance with such Criterion Four.

### Solar Project on Town Watershed

Mr. Londa reported that Alan McClennen, Chair of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners, had told him that the Board was evaluating whether approval of the State Legislature would be needed to install solar panels at the Town watershed (as also mentioned above in the report by Mr. Collins) and, if so, would be proposing an Article in the Warrant for the October 16 Special Town Meeting to pursue that approval.

Mr. Londa also referred to the issues involved in the efficacy and practicality of the Town's financing and owning the proposed solar panel project.

Ms. Chandler left the meeting at this point.

### Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of the Committee's July 13, 2023, meeting, as that draft was amended on August 2, 2023, were considered. After discussion, David Jacobson moved to approve the amended minutes. That motion was seconded by Hakim Janah and approved unanimously.

### Agenda for Next Meeting

Mr. Londa circulated a draft agenda for the September 13, 2023, Committee meeting.

### Other Business

Kevin Clements suggested that the Committee be represented regarding energy-related decisions when the Town considers major building projects, such as a firehouse or library, and Mr. Janah suggested that the Committee be represented regarding matters of compliance with energy requirements.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Jacobson, seconded by Mr. Janah, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Roger McDaniel  
Committee Clerk