

**Energy Committee
Minutes of Meeting
May 3, 2010**

Present: Richard Schotte, Sid Lindsley, Des Fitzgerald, Town Manager Roberta Smith, Select Board Liaisons: Morgan Laidlaw and Anita Brosius-Scott

Non-members: Ann Goggin, Jim Mays

Topics:

Property Accessed Clean Energy:

Anita Brosius-Scott spoke with Ann Goggin from Falmouth Energy Committee. She explained how PACE works. PACE allows homeowners to mortgage up to \$15k which will be used for energy upgrades to residential homes. The loans are paid back to municipalities with property tax payments. The idea is that the payment made to the municipality will be less than what would be paid for energy (heating oil, elec, wood etc) had the improvements not been performed.

Maine recently awarded \$30 mill "retrofit ramp-up" for PACE program

What type of energy improvement? Efficiency improvements other than solar/alternative energy. The group decided to wait on developing a special PACE ordinance until Efficiency Maine has developed guidelines for municipalities to follow. Counterproductive to establish an ordinance with no parameters established.

Des: Constellation not interested in the selling of energy on Ragged for a 20 year period. They would contract to buy it from a Ragged Mtn Wind type entity for 20 years but would only sell it in 4-5 year contracts. They are willing to act as consultant.

Richard: feels that the project leaves the town in an awkward position. Banks are not willing to finance a project with a 3 to five year commitment.

Jim: There will need to be a 20 year commitment from Constellation to obtain funding.

Des: Constellation must want a twenty year commitment, why wouldn't they?

Des: Action item, put it out to the group to have a special meeting with Rick Knowlton and George Baker. What's the expectation of the Camden EC moving forward?

Jim: What's the entity that will run with this? Figuring out the entity is that hard part. Camden and Rockport Select Boards will need to appoint prominent folks to be on the committee.

Roberta: Don't lose the fact that a portion of the project will be on town land. It's not about the entity, we should ask the voters first.

Jim: This organization will need \$300k to be able to answer the questions for the voters.

Roberta: At this point, do you ask the community? It would make much sense for a group to raise \$300k if the community is not ready to take the next step.

Des / Morgan: It's a catch 22. To take the next step we need the support of the voters. To be able to educate the voters, the group needs \$300k.

Richard: local impact, local benefit

Des: repeated that this is a 20 year insurance program on the stabilization of electricity.

Richard: agreed that a vote is needed

There was some discussion as to the size of the project on Ragged. Do we know it's no more than 3 or 4 turbines?

Roberta suggested that a joint committee could be formed to, as a first step, explore a question(s) to be voted on in November about a concept for wind on Ragged. The question could suggest number of turbines, structure of deal and potential benefits. This would be preliminary to spending any money to explore feasibility and any possible "show stoppers".

There was lots of discussion on the vote. In the end two votes were discussed:

1. Spend money to fund research into the viability of wind on Ragged.
 2. Are you ready to move forward
- June 1st will be the George Baker meeting with the Select Board:

Sid: you need to find out who'll be affected by wind noise, wind noise, you're going to have a lot more than 3 (referring to Vinalhaven)

*Now the new date for the next Energy Committee meeting with George Baker is June 7th and the presentation to the Town Selectmen is June 15th.