

## Minutes

### Vineyard Power Board Meeting

May 8, 2018 10:30 am

**Present:** Mike Jacobs, Paul Pimentel, Ann Berwick, Warren Adams, Julius Lowe, Jon Hartzband, Ron Dagostino, Bill Lake

**Non-Board:** Richard Andre, Erik Peckar

Begun 10:33 am

1. Richard Andre reported on the status of Community Empowerment legislation in the Commonwealth legislature. The House is considered unlikely to pass energy legislation this session, having passed major laws last session. But the Speaker Pro Tem has filed the bill and there remains a possibility that it will pass out of committee. If the House does act favorably, favorable Senate action is likely. If Community Empowerment legislation is not enacted this session, it is likely to be reintroduced next session. The Board discussed the other options that exist, even in the absence of Community Empowerment legislation, for the cooperative to remain active in renewable energy and fulfill its cooperative objectives.

2. A decision on the Massachusetts wind RFP is now expected by May 23. Connecticut and Rhode Island are also doing RFPs, and Vineyard Wind will likely participate in both. Massachusetts is scheduled to issue its second RFP by June 2019. If Vineyard Wind receives a major power purchase agreement in the first Massachusetts procurement, it could possibly self-finance a small add-on to generate power to be sold in other ways. This is a reflection of the growing strength of the offshore wind industry.

3. It remains timely for Board members and friends of the cooperative to express their support for offshore wind in the ongoing state and federal proceedings. Today is the last day to submit comments to the state Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) supporting the Vineyard Wind Connector that is proposed to bring clean energy from the wind farm to the New England grid connection point in Barnstable. And the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will still accept comments on Vineyard Wind's Construction and Operations Plan (COP), despite the expiration of the nominal filing deadline. Comments received may have significant impact on the two agencies' decisions.

4. Another commenting opportunity will arise shortly. BOEM has released a draft sale notice for the reauction of the two remaining tracts south of Martha's Vineyard that failed to sell in the first auction. The draft notice states that a bidder with a community benefit agreement will receive a 5 percent discount in the auction, with a dollar cap. In the previous auction, the discount was 10 percent, with no cap. Vineyard Power will

invite its members and friends to support increasing the discount to 10 percent and eliminating the cap. There will be a 30-day period for comments to be submitted.

5. Board members held two social events in April in order to expose members of the community more fully to Vineyard Power and its objectives and to stimulate discussion of the issues we deal with. A further such event will take place at Paul Pimentel's home on May 20, and others will be planned over the course of the summer and fall.

6. The minutes of the February 6 and March 6 meetings were approved.

Adjourned 11:35 am

Future meeting dates:

June 5

August 7

September 11

November 6

December 4