

**Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of October 19, 2020
Remote Participation
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Richard Elkin, Charles Cole, Lilli-Ann Green, Robert Shapiro, Carol Magenau, Suzanne Ryan, David Mead-Fox and Gorham Brigham

Guest: Rebekah Eldridge

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

This Zoom meeting was recorded and posted on Town website.

BUSINESS

Review of rules for remote participation under open meeting law (OML): Elkin gave an introduction to Open Meeting Law and Zoom meeting remote participation. He stated a role call vote must be taken.

Approval of minutes:

Motion: Magenau moved to approve minutes as submitted¹. Shapiro seconded. The motion carried 7-0

Discussion of Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Climate Action Listening Session on Oct. 15: Elkin spoke about the presentation given by the CCC staff. The majority of the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in our county are from the transportation and home heating sectors. He thinks working on these sectors and not others is the path we should take. Elkin said the CCC does a good job with the adaptation part of tackling climate change but they do not regarding mitigation. Green defended the CCC. She has observed each one of the CCC listening sessions held with the different regions of the county and participated in the Outer Cape session. Shapiro also attended the Outer Cape session. Shapiro and Elkin talked about obtaining the missing specific information of gasoline used in vehicles and home heating fuel to be able to understand GHG emissions in our town. They also spoke about regulations. Green said that she thinks most people in Wellfleet are educated and want to do something significant to reduce their GHG emissions. Magenau also attended the meeting.

Discussion of approaches to meeting Global Warming Solutions Goals and our input to the local comprehensive plan: Magenau is working with Ryan on a vulnerability plan. She has talked with Suzanne Thomas. The team working on a draft local comprehensive plan will meet in November. There is a draft energy section. Elkin asked Magenau to send the most recent draft via email to our committee. Elkin would like to model our local comprehensive plan revisions regarding energy and climate change on the MA goals. Shapiro talked about sequestration and reducing GHG emissions. He would like as much accurate information as possible regarding current GHG emissions in our town. A discussion was held regarding GHG emissions reductions. Brigham said an approach that may effective needs to have a cost benefit analysis also. In addition he expressed that communication to various stakeholders may be quite different based on age and other factors. Mead-Fox said that it would be important to make options attractive so there is wide spread adoption and options need to be economically beneficial. He agreed with Brigham regarding a massive communication effort. Elkin talked about GHG emissions reductions in the building sector and transportation. He is looking to the CCC for a model local comprehensive plan.

Discussion of community outreach program for 2021 – Outer Cape Energize: Mead-Fox is working with Bob Steele of Truro to hold a Zoom meeting with the public following the election. They are exploring methods of meeting based upon the realities of the pandemic. He is looking into Cape Light Compact (CLC) funding and available staff time to help with efforts. At this time it looks like the CLC staff are available in 2022. He is exploring how it may be cost effective for home owners to adopt various transitions to all electric homes with price reductions and rebates. He said that education is key. Brigham said it would be beneficial to start talking with oil and propane dealers so they become advocates. Elkin said it would be important to identify companies who sell and install products discussed. Shapiro spoke about the electric energy grid and the demand for electric energy needs to be addressed.

[Mead-Fox left the meeting – 7:45 pm]

Joint possible actions with other energy committees: No new information.

Discussion of new Nauset Regional High School building: Elkin has not heard back from the Brewster Energy Committee and SelectBoard in Brewster. He will write again to other towns to ask for support.

Global Covenant of Mayors/Green Community Act reporting: Shapiro reported he has until December to enter the updates and said we are in good shape. He is happy the CCC is unifying the county, they have completed a lot of work and have already provided valuable information.

[Shapiro left the meeting – 8:05 pm]

Status of PV array on landfill: No new information. Elkin would like the topic to be added to the agenda of the next Selectboard meeting. Green said it would be important to hear from the attorney what the status is and what the next steps are.

Review of implications of new pending state legislation: Elkin stated that both the House and Senate have energy bills in conference committee.

Request for future agenda topics: Local comprehensive plan

Discussion and review of grant proposal status: Ryan updated the committee. Ryan is discussing possible grants with the CCC and the town. There is the need for a generator for the Council on Aging and since the COA is an evacuation site, this is a viable project. She did meet with the Town Administrator. She and Magenau plan to meet with the Dept. of Public Works to discuss low lying roads and what roads are DPW priorities. They would like to develop a plan one and two years ahead to meet the goals of the town so that grants can be appropriately applied for.

Committee liaison: Cole will attend the Shellfish meeting this week. Magenau is attending Recycling Committee meetings. Green is following up with the County Administer regarding solar projects.

Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters: Brigham has not received feedback on the consolidated bill sample at this time from the town. Brigham and Elkin discussed possible next steps.

Old Business: Green stated that she was disappointed that Elkin sent an email to the entire committee expressing his opinion, and asked people to call him to talk about the upcoming CCC listening session. He communicated his opinion and deliberated with more than a quorum of our committee outside of the meeting which was in clear violation to the MA Open Meeting Law. She further expressed being offended by how Elkin highly inappropriately characterized the CCC using swear words, especially since he has been appointed to represent our town as a CCC Board Member.² Elkin apologized for offending anyone and vehemently pushed back on the statement of violating OML. Green said she will call the Office of the Attorney General, speak with the attorney of the day and report back at the next meeting.

New Business: Green has signed up to participate in the CCC stakeholder listening session. The next meeting will be held on November 16 at 7:00 pm.

Motion: Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Brigham seconded. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ Minutes

² Email