

**Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of February 10, 2020
Wellfleet Council on Aging
6:30 p.m.**

Present: Richard Elkin, Charles Cole, Lilli-Ann Green, Gorham Brigham, Carol Magenau, Suzanne Ryan, David Mead-Fox, John Cumbler and Jeff Tash

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

The meeting was videotaped for viewing on public access TV.

BUSINESS

Approval of minutes:

Motion: Magenau moved to approve minutes as submitted¹. Mead-Fox seconded.

The motion carried 7-0

Request for future agenda topics of the committee: Elkin asked for committee members to forward him potential topics for discussion and action steps.

Joint actions with Truro committees: Ryan has communicated with committees regarding grant proposals. She has sent information to them as they are interested in partnering with Wellfleet regarding Coastal Zone Management funded grants and vulnerability grants with the Cape Cod Commission. She will reach out to them regarding a meeting with our committee.

Green Communities Act resubmission: The annual report was submitted. There are some anomalies such as fuel oil usage for the Elementary School was usually high because the fuel tanks were filled up at the end of the year. These items will be accounted for in the future.

Review of implications of new pending state legislation: Pending legislation calls for setting energy goals through 2050. Every 5 years progress is evaluated and a report is generated. Mass Energy Insight and Green Communities programs both help Wellfleet to measure energy usage. The State bill may help town by town measurements with items hard to measure such as vehicle gasoline usage.

Review and discussion of 350.org and similar petitions and potential town meeting articles: Cumbler explained a citizens' petition has been submitted for the town meeting warrant regarding reducing our carbon footprint. Mead-Fox distributed a draft letter² at the meeting to go to the Chair and Vice Chair of the MA Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) with copies to Governor Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Senate President Karen Spilka, Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Sarah Peake. It was the first time committee members saw the letter. The first sentence of the letter states "The Town of Wellfleet urges you to update the current Massachusetts energy stretch code to a Net Zero stretch code." Mead-Fox urged sending the letter. Green objected as it was the first time to see the letter and she did not have time to review the letter and its contents or to research the pros and cons of said letter. In addition, she objected to the committee sending the letter. She stated it was appropriate for the committee to vote to refer the letter to the Select Board or the Town Administrator but not for the committee to send the letter. She further stated the committee serves at the pleasure of the Select Board and

it is not appropriate, proper, and not legally correct for our committee to send such a letter on behalf of our town.

Motion: Mead-Fox moved to send the letter to the BBRS by the committee as distributed at the meeting. Cole seconded. The motion carried 6-1 (Green opposed)

Elkin took the responsibility to send the letter. Furthermore he said he will invent stationery for the letter.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Promotion: Discussion was held regarding ideas for a location of an EV car show. Highway locations and behind Town Hall were proposed. A discussion was held regarding proposing different locations for different types of EV charging stations based upon charging capacities. Beaches, the harbor and movie theater for level 2; 4-6 hours. Restaurants and gas stations for level 3; 15 minutes – ½ hour.

Discussion and Review of Grant Application Proposals: Ryan met with M. Song at Cape Light Compact (CLC) regarding writing the next Green Communities Act (GCA) Grant. Ryan was in touch with four locations that are interested in insulation curtains/drapes. They are: the Elementary School, Town Hall, the Council on Aging building and the Library. CLC will conduct energy audits as a first step towards applying for the GCA grant. She will wait for the audit results prior to working on the grant application.

Review of meeting with CLC on 95 Lawrence Rd and publicity for the meeting on grant: Elkin and Mead-Fox met with CLC and the task force for the 46 unit building project. They are all working together on writing a Request for Proposals that will specify passive solar and net zero objectives.

Suggestion for anti-idling signs at the library, Mayo Beach or the Pier: Town Hall parking lot where trucks unload, the post offices, the beaches and the head of the bike trail were other location suggested by committee members. Elkin asked for committee members to email him with a list of locations where such signs would be of benefit and he will meet with DPW to get this completed. Green stated that a list of this sort should be reviewed prior to another meeting, voted on by the committee and if approved submitted to the Select Board as that is the extent of our authority as a committee.

Global Covenant of Mayors status and action: No update. Magenau will contact Shapiro.

Planning Board (PB) liaison and climate change model bylaw discussion: Mead-Fox is on the PB and will discuss climate ready bylaws. The Cape Cod Commission is working to create a model bylaw for the town of Eastham. He will report to the WECAC regarding progress. Elkin talked about the idea of developing a vision plan for the town. If completed the PB and other committees would have a vision plan to conform to. Mead-Fox talked about the town Comprehensive Plan.

Large solar array update: Elkin updated the committee there is no change.

Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters: Brigham has been researching this effort. He wants to see what is on the bills and what is needed to stay on a bill if it is possible to consolidate accounts. He proposes to create a trial statement bill to show to the town accountant to see if it is acceptable prior to finalizing any agreement to move forward.

Old Business: Cumbler is working with the Conservation Commission, the Select Board and the Town Administrator to rewrite the charge of the commission to include climate change. He expects it will be a long process.

Magenau asked Tash if the Finance Committee has approved a requested \$50,000 matching grant. Tash has been submitted to the Town Administrator and to the Select Board. Tash will get back to the committee with an answer.

New Business: Elkin will ask a representative from the Department of Energy Resources to attend the next meeting. New meeting dates are March 9 and April 13 at 6:30 pm.

Motion: Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Cole seconded. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ Minutes

² Letter to BBRS

12/2/2020

Richard Elkin Chair,
Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
PO Box 225
S Wellfleet, MA 02663



John Couture, Chair
Kerry Dietz, Vice-Chair
Massachusetts Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS)
1000 Washington St,
Suite 710,
Boston, MA 02118

Dear Chair Couture and Board Members,

The Town of Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee has voted to urge you to update the current Massachusetts energy stretch code to a Net Zero stretch code. Giving communities the option to adopt a Net Zero stretch code will help achieve our statewide energy efficiency and climate goals, and make buildings safer, more comfortable, and more efficient for families and businesses across the Commonwealth.

When the Massachusetts stretch code was first developed it was considerably ahead of the base code. Due to the base code catching up, it is no longer a significant improvement. As the Board is likely aware, many communities in Massachusetts are interested in Net Zero community planning and Net Zero buildings. A Net Zero stretch code would give Wellfleet the opportunity to improve how buildings are built now, getting us closer to meeting our climate goals as outlined by the Global Warming Solutions Act

The process of developing a revised stretch code should seek input from communities on the specific elements to ensure workability, with a clear goal of minimizing carbon pollution. An updated stretch code must address: enhanced thermal envelopes and strategies to reduce base energy use, increased use of electric heat to enable future use of renewables to support grid energy use, attention to resiliency, as well as readiness for electric vehicles, solar, and battery storage.

The Town of Wellfleet has made commitments to efficiency, resiliency, and clean energy with the goal of becoming a Net Zero community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Elkin

cc.

Sarah Peake, Representative

Governor Charles Baker
House Speaker Robert DeLeo
Senate President Karen Spilka
Julian Cyr, Senator