

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of December 14, 2020
Remote Participation
7:00 p.m.

Present: Richard Elkin, Lilli-Ann Green, Robert Shapiro, Carol Magenau, Suzanne Ryan and John Cumbler

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 7:05 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 roll call vote must be taken.

Approval of minutes:

Motion: Cumbler moved to approve minutes. Shapiro seconded. The motion carried 6-0

Discussion and review of grant proposal status: Ryan updated the committee. The BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant for a generator for the Council on Aging was not approved. There is a need to plan in advance. She and Magenau talked with the Town Administrator about planning and communication. A discussion was held regarding strategy moving forward. Cumbler suggested working with the Wastewater Committee and combining their goals of reducing nitrates and building bulkheads for protection from flooding with the WECAC goals of providing monies to study low lying roads for the next application of a MVP grant. Green suggested discussing this strategy with the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) contact. Shapiro talked about coordination with DPW. Ryan questioned if there are other departments or committees that could be involved. Elkin suggested bringing this to the Town Administrator and Selectboard for their feedback and others agreed this was a next step.

Discussion of and possible motion to support for specific goals for GHG reductions: It was agreed not to take action.

Fuel efficiency automobile policy for town: Elkin received a draft policy on town vehicles from Selectboard member Ryan Curley which proposes mandating hybrid vehicles. Elkin is investigating potential electric cars, and has talked with the Police Department which is expected to propose a new vehicle at the next Town Meeting. Shapiro asked about researching EVs for the DPW vehicles (presumably most are trucks). Cumbler stated that some MA towns buy police cars from the Green Energy Consumer Alliance, which may be less costly than the State procurement list. Elkin will call the Alliance. Cumbler suggested that fuel-efficient vehicles may be very likely to be approved by Town Meeting. It was stated that if this committee does the homework, it could help the Town transition to EVs.

Town-wide Climate Action Network: Cumbler said there is not an official town CAN. He worked with 350.org people but that is not a formal group either.

Global Covenant of Mayors/Green Community Act reporting: Shapiro gave an overview. The steps are to conduct an inventory, plan for improvements and then implement the improvements. He said the town needs to commit to take action steps next. Elkin said we have been taking steps including the solar PV at the landfill and the two Green Communities grants. Shapiro said there is a town government side and a residents side and we don't have the resident data. Green suggested getting the solar PV data from Mass Clean Energy Center (CEC) for the residential solar installations and that the Cape Light Compact (CLC) has home and business insulation and energy savings data. Cumbler spoke about the net-zero resolution passed at Town Meeting. Elkin will request five years of data from CLC, find the link to the Mass CEC spreadsheet on solar installations, and will investigate whether either agency is keeping track of ductless mini-splits.

Committee input to the local comprehensive plan: The committee reviewed the draft updated by Magenau incorporating suggestions from 3 members. Elkin said the committee should discuss this in detail, send our suggested edits to the Recycling Committee for their input, revise and then submit to the Selectboard and committee working on the updates. Green suggested an edit to the peak hour by season because in a CLC presentation she learned that peak hours are 4-7 pm during the summertime which are different from what one may think and therefore may make a difference. Magenau will incorporate further edits suggested at the meeting, and forward the final version to the Local Comprehensive Planning Committee chair Suzanne Thomas, along with the draft plan submitted by the Recycling Committee (covered by the same section of the LCP). The revised plan will then be submitted to the Selectboard for their information.

Discussion of new Nauset Regional High School building: Elkin has not yet sent a letter to the Selectboard recommending the all electric option.

[Cumbler and Shapiro left the meeting]

Discussion of community outreach program for 2021 – Outer Cape Energize and joint possible actions with other energy committees: No news

Discussion of PV array on landfill and other possible PV installations: No news

Request for future agenda topics: None

Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters: No news

Review state legislation: No news

Community Liaisons: No news

Old Business: Magenau and Ryan spoke about the CVEC virtual meeting of the Cape and Islands Energy Committees and others. It was interesting for them to hear about what is going on in other towns. Green suggested the questionnaire the committees fill out prior to the meeting regarding their achievements could be put into a spreadsheet and shared via email with the committees beforehand so it could be reviewed prior to the meeting. That way various topics could be discussed instead of spending two hours hearing what committees are doing.

Magenau said she would work on the EV car show with Green. A brief discussion was held about possible logistics and Green recommended logistics discussions be put on hold until the pandemic is more under control.

New Business: The next meeting will be held on January 11 at 7:00 pm.

Motion: Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Magenau seconded. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lilli-Ann Green

Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary