

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes for 19 January 2023

Remote Participation

Present: Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian (Chair), Lilli-Ann Green (Vice-Chair), Carol Magenau (Secretary), Dick Elkin, David Mead-Fox, Robert Shapiro, Gorham Brigham [alternate]

Before the meeting was officially started there was a discussion of officers' duties. Elkin mentioned that members are supposed to review the conflict-of-interest law and the open meeting law on an annual basis.

The meeting was officially opened by Chair Ryan-Ishkanian at 7:25 PM. She and Elkin discussed the committee's annual report which is due in February and should cover the committee's accomplishments for calendar year 2022.

Brigham motioned, and Elkin seconded, to accept **minutes** with amendments (which had been submitted to Green by Magenau) for March, April, May and September, previously distributed by Green. Motion carried 6-0-0.

Mead-Fox reported on the **electric vehicle car show** which is being planned for June. The Steering committee met on the previous day. The Cape Cod Technology Council has agreed to provide support. ACE Solar has committed to having a table at the show. Elkin suggested inviting a company that installs charging stations to participate.

Mead-Fox will email us the web address of the e-v owners list that has been created. Several owners have committed to participation in the show. Mead-Fox will distribute to members the form for e-v owners to express interest in participation. Paul Cass (Orleans) has joined the planning group and will get public service announcements on local TV channels.

It's likely that carpooling will be arranged from the outer Cape, perhaps a bus and likely leaving from the Salt Pond Visitors Center.

Brigham suggested a handout explaining rebates, which are complex depending on a number of factors.

Green stated she is attending a seminar on e-vs this weekend.

The committee has voted previously to support the **opt-in stretch code**, the adoption of which will require a vote at Town Meeting. Elkin commented that the opt-in stretch code is not much different from the new regular stretch code for residential buildings, though there are differences for commercial buildings and those with multiple units.

Mead-Fox has been working with Bob Higgins-Steele (Truro) on this effort, and recently met with the Wellfleet Building Inspector who has indicated support of the opt-in code. Mead-Fox is on the Selectboard agenda next Tuesday to inform them we want the opt-in code on the warrant. A multi-town meeting is being planned to educate builders about the code and request their support. Public education will be needed, probably in each town, and Mead-Fox sees this as an opportunity to raise

awareness on a number of issues. Some promised training materials are still pending from the state.

Shapiro reported that he is updating the information we report annually to the **Global Covenant of Mayors**, which has been open for submissions since January 1.

Regarding **grants**, Ryan-Ishkanian reported that she and Magenau were scheduled next week to discuss our interest in support for developing a **climate action plan** with Steve Tupper, deputy director of the Cape Cod Commission.

Mead-Fox mentioned the CVEC webinar on which he forwarded information: The IRA [Inflation Reduction Act] and your clean energy goals.

Green stated that there will be a workshop at the Library on Sunday on **Emergency preparedness**, an issue that has come up in relation to our Climate action plan. She has become aware that Eversource has an emergency phone number to report medical issues relating to loss of power (e.g. refrigerated medications); also that transportation may be available to get people to emergency shelters, and Eversource has a list of vulnerable people that could be available to police/fire/emergency personnel.

Elkin suggested there should be a question on the next town census: In the event of a power outage, can you drive yourself to an emergency shelter?

Shapiro stated that Eversource has very limited responsibility for fixing power outages within the National Seashore, where he lives.

This prompted Ryan-Ishkanian to announce that she has invited **Ronit Goldstein from Eversource** to attend our next meeting. She will share information on microgrids and battery storage. Members should send questions/issues to Ryan-Ishkanian who will forward them to Goldstein in advance of the next meeting.

Green stated that she spoke with Susan Baker who is putting together a seminar on **Historic Preservation and Climate Change** with three guest speakers.

Ryan-Ishkanian reported on the webinar "Changing Climate: renewable energy options" sponsored by the Sudbury Valley Trustees. The presenter was Larry Chretien from Green Energy Consumer Alliance. He emphasized the regional aspect, and that offshore wind needs to grow. They have a lot of info about electric vehicles, Ryan-Ishkanian will send a link. Magenau commented that she learned the phrase "municipal aggregation" and wondered if Wellfleet did that. Elkin said yes, it's the Cape Light Compact.

Under new business Magenau reported that in Nov. 2021 she made a public records request of the Dept. of Transportation to get the **number of electric vehicles** registered in Wellfleet, since the town reported being unable to provide the information. The response was that it could be given only for a current date. Shapiro said the fiscal year July-June was what was needed for the Global Covenant of Mayors reporting. Magenau said she would request it for this June 30.

Elkin asked whether people wanted to continue **meeting remotely**. Several members indicated they prefer Zoom. Elkin clarified that remote meetings are an emergency exception to the Open Meeting law which requires meeting in person. Whether the exception will be extended again (in March?), or authorized by new legislation, is unknown.

Green made a **motion to adjourn**, seconded by Brigham, voted 6-0-0 in favor. The meeting ended at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary C. Magenau

Carol (Mary C.) Magenau, Secretary

Next meeting date is **Thursday February 16 at 7:15 PM**