

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes for 27 April 2023

Remote Participation

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan-Ishkanian at 7:23 PM.

The meeting was recorded.

Business

Motion to approve minutes of meetings from Dec. 2022 and March 2023 made by Elkin, seconded by Ryan-Ishkanian, passed 5-0-0.

Electric vehicle show - Mead-Fox reported on commitments of owned vehicles for test drives, show-and-tell, etc. Several vendors have committed to bringing vehicles to be determined. Promotion is underway, and Americorps volunteers will be helping. Magenau reported that 5 people have volunteered to staff the Outer Cape Climate Action Committees table, but she is hoping for one more from our committee. Elkin's draft of our handout for the table was reviewed with thanks. Magenau mentioned that Elspeth Hay is unable to attend the e-v show, which is also demonstrating electric bikes. Elspeth has an e-bike and offered to demonstrate it locally if the occasion should arise. Mead-Fox said there is no information yet about possible car-pooling to the show. Ryan-Ishkanian asked whether the Ford Lightning truck would be represented. Magenau commented on the amazing acceleration capability of Ford electric trucks shown on the NOVA program "Chasing Carbon Zero." Mead-Fox said the waiting list is long for electric trucks.

Mead-Fox will present a brief summary about the **opt-in stretch code** at town meeting on Saturday. He will mention that Truro just overwhelmingly approved it.

Shapiro gave a brief presentation on the problems areas with reporting to the **Global Covenant of Mayors**. Records are not kept up to date on energy used for heating and on vehicles, for instance, and intensive work with town staff may be needed to clarify things. Plans created by the town to deal with hazards is another problem area. One improvement is that the reporting now categorizes respondents by size of town. Magenau said she would be aiming to get a count from the state Dept. of Transportation of total vehicles and the number of fully electric vehicles (not counting hybrids). Elkin suggested we look at these questions with regard to whether there were actions we are not taking but should be; the point of belonging to the Global Covenant is to improve our actions with regard to global warming. Shapiro was asked to pick the most important area(s) for discussion at our next meeting, and to distribute information so that members can study the issue in advance.

Grants – Ryan-Ishkanian has heard from Steve Tupper at Cape Cod Commission that we did not get funding through the DLTA grant to support development of our **Climate Action Plan**. However, the Commission is prepared to provide the same support to us through other funding sources, and more information should be forthcoming. Ryan-Ishkanian will distribute a few examples of other towns' Climate Action Plans, but cautioned that no two are alike due to varying local circumstances.

New **business** – Magenau suggested that we review the Massachusetts Climate Assessment, issued in Dec. 2022. Elkin volunteered and Magenau will send out the link to the report. Brigham brought up the topic of rebates and incentives for e-bikes, and whether the committee wants to promote these. Elkin stated that the rebates go through bike shops, and he failed to get them interested on behalf of Cape Light Compact. Elkin suggested getting contact information for bike shop owners. Brigham will further investigate the status of federal and state legislation. Magenau will invite Elspeth Hay to talk about her e-bike at the next meeting. Brigham suggested a possible e-bike show, maybe next summer.

[Shapiro left the meeting at 8:18]

Old business:

Direct pay on clean energy projects – Ryan-Ishkanian reported that this is a mechanism whereby a tax-exempt entity (such as a municipality) can receive a payment for certain energy projects, under two different umbrellas: investment [tax credit] or production [tax credit]. Projects would have to begin before January 2025 and payments would amount to 30% of the cost. There are also incentives for electric vehicles.

Magenau reported on the **Inflation Reduction Act** or IRA, as summarized by the Bipartisan Policy Center. She also gave some background information provided by the Environmental Defense Fund <https://www.edf.org/article/8-ways-inflation-reduction-act-can-save-you-money> and Citizens Climate Lobby <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/inflation-reduction-act/>, and will send out links for those summaries. The three sections that seemed most relevant to the committee in the long and complex IRA are: clean energy tax credits, residential energy efficiency, and clean energy financing. Magenau agreed to identify a few issues to refer to town staff.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mead-Fox, seconded by Magenau, passed 5-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday 18 May 2023 at 7:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Magenau

Carol [Mary C.] Magenau, Secretary