

## Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes for 15 June 2023

Remote Participation

**Present:** Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian (Chair), Carol Magenau (Secretary), Dick Elkin, Cynthia Franklin, Gorham Brigham (alternate), Lilli Ann Green (Vice-Chair)

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

The meeting was recorded.

It was clarified that Franklin has been approved as a full member of the Committee and been sworn in. Also that since not all members are present, Brigham as an alternate can vote at this meeting.

Magenau moved the **approval of minutes** for May 2023, October 2022 and June 2022, seconded by Ryan-Ishkanian. Brigham requested an amendment to the May 2023 minutes, regarding his idea about a land swap for the landing strip which is within the National Park borders. [Green joined the meeting at 7:28.] Green stated that she has been a delegate representing Wellfleet on the Cape Cod National Seashore Advisory Commission, and that the Town has been pursuing negotiations with the Park Service. She suggests that Brigham's idea be put on hold. The minutes were approved 5-0-1 with Green abstaining.

### Business

The discussion on the **landing strip** continued briefly. Elkin suggested we might want to propose to the Selectboard that land obtained in a swap with the National Park be used for renewable energy. Green reiterated her request that the Committee drop the idea, but said she would do further investigation. Elkin asked Brigham to draft a specific proposal for using the land for renewable energy.

Elkin gave a brief report on the electric vehicle car show, which was attended by 200 people and resulted in about 100 test drives (many of them in Elkin's vehicle). Eversource is charging electric vehicles through a "managed rate" using a wi-fi-enabled charger and encouraging charging from midnight to 6AM. Green commended Magenau for staffing a table at the show, and stated that she talked to Ronit Goldstein from Eversource there. Green was charged \$200 for a month for a vacant home (running refrigerator, clocks), though it was covered by solar panels.

No report on specialized building code, or on Global Covenant of Mayors.

Regarding the development of our Climate Action Plan, Ryan-Ishkanian reported that the resignation of the Assistant Town Administrator means that the involvement of the Cape Cod Commission is looking at best significantly delayed. She had exchanges with Steve Tupper

(CCC), Jay Norton (Public Works) and Barbara Carboni (our selectboard liaison) about the situation.

Steve Tupper has requested anything we have on **greenhouse gas documentation**. Magenau had emailed this request to Shapiro. Elkin said we have no way of directly calculating greenhouse gas emissions. He further stated that the only **metrics** that are feasible are the percentage of cars in town that are electric, and the percentage of houses in town that are all-electric. He thinks total electricity usage is available but is not sure what that would tell us. Magenau stated that she is trying to get a Public Records Request to the Dept. of Transportation to get the number of e-v's and total vehicles registered in Wellfleet as of June 30.

Ryan-Ishkanian invited Elkin to introduce his draft of a Climate Action Plan. He went over the definitions of adaptation and mitigation. He further stated that the Town's 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan was about adaptation, and was properly the province of the town staff. His draft Climate Action Plan concerns mitigation and is properly the province of our committee because it involves getting the citizens to take individual actions to decrease greenhouse gases. Ryan-Ishkanian suggested the framework of a timeline, with target dates for specific actions. Magenau addressed the importance of metrics. Green suggested more attention to the process and priorities of applying for grants and other opportunities. Elkin suggested Ryan-Ishkanian write a section on Grants and Opportunities. Magenau suggested that the #2 goal in the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to develop a prioritized list of projects, and we need that to work effectively on grants.

Elkin continued to present his draft. He raised the issue of Wellfleet residents' effects on greenhouse gases elsewhere, in particular Magenau's concern about food choices. Franklin added the issue of food waste and volunteered to work with Magenau on writing a new section. Brigham framed this as the context of "what can I do?" Green pointed out other possible areas, such as landscaping. Franklin asked about methane vented from the landfill, whether we should address that.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Brigham, seconded by Green, all in favor 6-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM

Next meeting: 20 July 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Magenau

Carol [Mary C.] Magenau, Secretary