

## Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes for 17 August 2023

Remote Participation

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

**Guest:** Barbara Carboni (Selectboard liaison)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan-Ishkanian at 7:19PM.

The meeting was recorded.

### Business

**Motion to approve minutes** [for July 2023] with minor corrections by Magenau was made by Elkin, seconded by Green, voted 7-0-0. Magenau reported that past minutes were all available on the town website committee page as of a couple of weeks ago.

Elkin presented on the **Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment**, a report issued in Dec. 2022. It lists hazards to be aware of specific to each region, including the Cape, Islands and South Coast Region. Possible hazards include: increase in disease outbreaks, damage to electrical infrastructure, reduction in clean water supply, flooding due to abnormally heavy rains (perhaps not accounted for in town's Hazard Mitigation Plan), and more demand for municipal services at the same time that tax revenues are decreasing due to coastal flood risk. Green requested that Elkin re-send the links to the report. Elkin suggested that we delegate someone to speak with police and/or fire departments about paved roads with high embankments. Green stated that we have received funding to look at low-lying roads, and should look into potential funding for flood-prone roads due to precipitation.

Regarding **specialized [stretch] code collaboration** Mead-Fox stated that the Outer Cape energy committees were planning to collaborate on education for building commissioners. Elkin mentioned that the **Cape Cod Climate Action Network** is planning an education series, and looking to identify "climate ambassadors" who will serve as experts to coach individuals who want to take action. Elkin believes that WECAC members should sign up for this program and get training to be coaches. Ryan-Ishkanian mentioned that this group is planning an Oktoberfest event around climate change, and she will send information about it. Elkin stated that we should support the CCCAN group.

In Shapiro's absence, Magenau stated that he is automatically off the Committee. Ryan-Ishkanian stated that Robert knew this, and that we were supposed to discuss the possibility of sharing the workload for the **Global Covenant of Mayors**, since he has been facing health issues. Elkin stated that we should urge him to reapply, that it would be a huge loss were he not to continue.

Elkin asked Brigham if he was available to take **meter readings for the solar installations** at the library, fire station and elementary school [for reporting to MassEnergyInsight in care of Margaret Song at Cape Light Compact]. Data for a fourth installation, the solar array at the landfill, is available online. These are overdue. Brigham agreed.

### Climate Action Plan

- Ryan-Ishkanian reported that Steve Tupper said they want to revisit the idea of working with Wellfleet after the summer; our staffing shortage (resignation of the Assistant Town Administrator) is the big obstacle.
- Ryan-Ishkanian also stated that she would be working on a draft section for the plan on Grants & Opportunities.
- The committee reviewed Magenau's draft on food choices, and suggested revisions and a new draft.
- [Barbara Carboni left the meeting at some point during this discussion.]
- The committee reviewed Franklin's draft on transportation, and discussed possible widening of bike lanes. Ryan-Ishkanian said she would compile a contact list of bike shop owners. Green suggested that she could raise the issue of the bike path going through National Seashore land when the reconstituted advisory committee meets (date as yet unknown).

### Requests for new agenda items

- Magenau suggested the committee maintain a calendar for actions that need to be done annually in a certain timeframe: collecting solar array readings; requesting statistics on vehicles and electric vehicles registered; and the Green Communities report. Ryan-Ishkanian suggested a shared Google calendar and Elkin suggested using the calendar on the committee website.
- [Mead-Fox left the meeting at 8:24]
- Magenau asked if we could have a shared mailing list and what Barbara Carboni should be copied on.
- Green asked if we can help non-profits find funding for green projects, such as WHAT Theater needing an HVAC system. Elkin suggested contacting Cape Light Compact, which Green has already done. Elkin stated that the Inflation Reduction Act helps non-profits by providing a tax benefit (30%) to the contractor which can be passed on to the non-profit.
- Magenau suggested we consider designating a social media person, such as the Recycling Committee has for Facebook, Twitter, etc.

Under old business Magenau brought up the **annual Solar Tour**, which is taking place Oct. 6-8 under the auspices of the American Solar Energy Association. It can be done in person or online. The deadline to sign up is 9/22 and to get a sign was 8/15. For unknown reason the organization Self-Reliance is sponsoring a similar event one week earlier on 10/1 and it includes one Wellfleet house. There is no comprehensive list of local solar homes. It's probably too late

to participate this year but let's put it on our calendar for spring of next year. Despite the name it showcases any sustainable technology (wind, water, etc.)

Under new business

- Elkin mentioned that Orleans is putting **Level 2 chargers** at Nauset Beach. The maintenance contract for public Level 2 chargers is a few hundred dollars per month because of enabling payment options. An alternative is to control eligibility with sticker fees, which Elkin is working to promote. Franklin suggested working with the local Chamber of Commerce to interest motels in installing charging stations. Elkin will report at next meeting on Level 2 charging.
- Ryan-Ishkanian stated she would send out information on the **Decarbonize Cape Cod** campaign by Cape Cod Climate Action Network.

Next meeting: Thursday 17 September 2023

Franklin and Green mentioned they would not be at the next meeting.

**Motion to adjourn** was made by Brigham, seconded by Franklin, voted 6-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Magenau

Carol [Mary C.] Magenau, Secretary