

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes for 17 October 2023

Remote Participation

Present: Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian (Chair), Carol Magenau (Secretary), Gorham Brigham, Dick Elkin, Cynthia Franklin, Lilli Ann Green (Vice-Chair)[a few minutes late due to login issues]

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan-Ishkanian at 7:17 PM.

The meeting was recorded.

Business

[0:58] **Motion to approve minutes** for September meeting as updated made by Brigham, seconded by Ryan-Ishkanian, approved 4-0-1 with Franklin abstaining since she was not present.

There was nothing reported on **specialized [stretch] code** collaboration.

[2:28] Magenau proposed that it would be good to have a **social media presence** for events and information from the Committee. The Recycling Committee has a social media person who posts on the Wellfleet Community Forum on Facebook and also on other forums. Magenau will contact that individual to ask how a local audience is found on those other media. Brigham suggested connecting with someone of perhaps high school age to discuss how Instagram might be useful. Magenau has wondered whether we ought to be in touch with the schools about our mission, and Franklin asked whether there is a relevant group (climate? green?) at the high school. Ryan-Ishkanian stated that Instagram is primarily visual, not text oriented. Franklin volunteered to find out about relevant group(s) at the high school. Ryan volunteered to be our Facebook social media person.

[11:24] Ryan-Ishkanian reported that she and Magenau will be meeting weekly with Robert Shapiro to see if our submission to the **Global Covenant of Mayors** can be enhanced with additional information.

[13:35] Ryan-Ishkanian reported that she sent the available drafts of our **Climate Action Plan** to Steve Tupper at the Cape Cod Commission. Elkin suggested that the separate drafts be edited into the main document, which Ryan-Ishkanian agreed to do. Franklin asked what the process of creating our Climate Action Plan entails going forward, and what role the Commission is expected to play. Ryan-Ishkanian thought the Commission would help us with technical/statistical questions, and Elkin suggested we identify what questions we need help with. Magenau thought the Commission proposed to lead us through discussions with other committees and town staff in developing the Plan. Comments were made by Elkin (negative) and Green (positive) on the effectiveness of the Commission's work on climate change. Franklin suggested asking Steve Tupper to meet with us and explain how he sees the Commission's role in helping with our Plan. Ryan-Ishkanian stated she would invite him to our

next meeting. Elkin said the Committee needs to discuss and approve (or not) the goals in the draft Plan.

[24:52] Elkin reported on the proposed goal of having the **Town purchase only renewable energy**, rather than continuing with the present contractual arrangement. Cape Light Compact has given the figure of less than \$0.035/kilowatt hour, which based on our past usage amounts to about \$19,000 annually. Elkin agreed to provide a written proposal for discussion, to be presented to the Selectboard if approved by the Committee. It could then be incorporated into the budget, or proposed as a separate article on the Town Meeting warrant.

[29:16] Elkin also stated that he would follow up with the DPW [Dept. of Public Works] to see if the **broken solar arrays** at the Library and Fire Station have been fixed. He said that these facilities do not have a maintenance contract.

[30:23] Green returned to the question of **renewable energy for town buildings**, again proposing that Elkin create a fact sheet detailing the proposal. Elkin stated that the proposal is based on Cape Light Compact buying Class 1 RECS, which represent renewable energy sources of many types from New England. Elkin agreed to create a brief written proposal for discussion and possible presentation to the Selectboard.

[37:29] Elkin reported on the **e-bike incentive program**. The first round is fully subscribed, and includes three companies in Provincetown but nowhere else on the Outer Cape. There will be a second round, and companies should apply now though we don't know when that will happen. The incentive is up to \$1,200, but e-bikes are very expensive. Brigham asked if unredeemed vouchers (of which there are several) have an expiration or could be turned in. Ryan-Ishkanian has names and phone numbers of Outer Cape bike shop owners and will look for email addresses, and send to Elkin. Elkin will draft an email to be sent to them regarding the incentive program. Elkin and Ryan-Ishkanian will finalize the draft and follow it up with phone calls.

[43:39] Under **requests for future agenda topics** Franklin brought up **school bus electrification**. A letter was sent to encourage Cape Cod Collaborative to apply for funding, should we send such a letter again, perhaps in concert with other Outer Cape towns? Elkin pointed out there is also a Wellfleet representative on the Nauset School Committee. Ryan-Ishkanian volunteered to draft a new letter and requested any new information available.

[47:26] Elkin mentioned a request from Cape Cod Regional Transit Authority for ideas about where **charging stations for CCRT buses** could be installed. Elkin suggested Orleans Stop & Shop parking lot. Brigham suggested the Provincetown bus station, and the Hyannis Transportation Center. These are places where the busses stop more than momentarily.

[50:00] Elkin commented that he could not get the **Level 2 chargers** at the Hyannis Transportation Center to work. He discussed the necessity of a maintenance contract for Level 2 chargers that are able to do billing, which he says is more expensive than the electricity itself,

and therefore he is in favor of a flat rate. The charger at our Town Hall parking lot no longer works and the Town has no maintenance contract. Elkin said other towns (Eastham, Orleans) are interested in jointly negotiating a maintenance contract, but he feels that a flat rate (and a basic Level 2 charger without billing capability) is more appropriate.

[55:54] Under **new business** Franklin stated that the state legislature has passed a bill providing \$150 million for **regional transit** and an additional \$58 million for climate-friendly initiatives. Cape Cod Regional Transit is working with Hatch Consulting to move forward with electrification. Franklin will monitor the situation.

[59:23] Magenau asked for committee approval of a project to contact **local restaurants to improve sustainability**, including increasing plant-based offerings and looking at food waste. The project is in fulfillment of a course requirement with Pachamama Alliance. Elkin noted that most restaurants are closing for the winter, but Magenau thinks this is good timing to think about next year's menu and that owners won't be as busy. She will bring drafts of a script and handout as the project develops.

[1:04:41]. Under old business, Magenau reported that per the Town Clerk the Town does not have enough **group email addresses** to provide one for the Committee.

[1:05:49] Magenau reported on the Cape Cod Commission's compilation of **data about electric vehicles**. This took place because Elkin mentioned to Steve Tupper that Magenau had submitted a public information request to the RMV for the number of e-vs in Wellfleet. We requested the numbers by fiscal year, but the Commission's totals are by calendar year. It may be possible to use information in the database to compile fiscal year data. The Commission is tracking two types of hybrid vehicles as well as full e-vs. Elkin commented that Massachusetts is approximately 6th nationally in adoption of fully electric vehicles, and that even before subsidies an e-v is now less expensive than a conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) car.

[1:12:29] Elkin reported on **Eversource subsidies for e-v charging**. Eversource is offering \$1,400 for a home charger, upgrading wiring, etc. These actions are also eligible for a 30% federal tax credit. There is also a monthly \$25 rebate for enrolling in Eversource's program to recharge overnight, effected with a wi-fi-enabled charger. Ryan-Ishkanian noted that the Cape Cod Climate Action Network has a page with links to sites that list used e-vs.

[1:19:26] Regarding the possible goal of **electrification of town buildings** Elkin commented that we need to discuss whether we want to back this and decide on a time frame, perhaps 15 years. Elkin will have a conversation with Jay Norton at DPW to start gathering information.

[1:22:28] Ryan-Ishkanian questioned whether we wanted to run an ad for a second **Committee alternate**. Elkin stated that the Wellfleet Community Forum will be running a meeting to encourage sign-ups for town committees. Magenau volunteered to run a free ad in the *Provincetown Independent* community classifieds.

[1:24:27] **Motion to adjourn** was made by Brigham, seconded by Franklin, voted 6-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:43 PM.

Next meeting: Thursday 16 November 7:15 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Magenau

Carol [Mary C.] Magenau, Secretary