

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of July 21, 2020
Remote Participation
3:00 p.m.

Present: Richard Elkin, Lilli-Ann Green, Robert Shapiro, Carol Magenau, Suzanne Ryan, Gorham Brigham, David Mead-Fox and John Cumbler

Finance Committee Liaison: Jeff Tash

Guest: Hillary Greenberg-Lemos

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

This Zoom meeting was recorded and posted on Town website.

BUSINESS

Meeting with Hillary Greenberg-Lemos to discuss grants on vulnerability and resilience:

Greenberg-Lemos presented an overview of the town grants in these areas. Wellfleet has been the lead on a resiliency grant with the Outer Cape towns. A database is being created that will continue to be refined. There is a memorandum of understanding between the towns to work together regionally. The database will be publically available in the future. Currently the Center for Coastal Studies knows how to run it. Phase II will provide access to the database and refine it. The health department will work with the Cons Com for developing best policies and procedures in issues such as beach nourishment. Phase II will help to manage the resources better and make enforcement easier. Wellfleet is also the lead on a District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) grant with the Cape Cod Commission (CCC). This grant will help with flood plains, low lying areas especially next to salt marshes and low lying roads with a plan to raise them. There is also a Coastal Zone Management Grant that is in partnership with the Massachusetts Office of Environmental Affairs and is a vulnerability grant. Wellfleet is the lead on this regionally. One low lying road in each town is identified and then raised up. The hope is to bring all of the data together. Ryan spoke about a grant she has been looking at through the CCC regarding vulnerable buildings. The focus is both public and private buildings and it is a regional grant. Greenberg-Lemos cautioned the committee to not include private home owners in grants we are looking at. Mead-Fox was in favor of both private and public use buildings. Shapiro said he thinks it's a mistake to focus solely on public areas. Cumbler agreed with Greenberg-Lemos who further stated her department does not have jurisdiction over private land owners again cautioning the committee members. Brigham asked about Rt. 6. Greenberg-Lemos said this project is being worked on by the Commonwealth. Cumbler asked about the Herring River project and if there are any conflicts. Greenberg-Lemos stated that the low lying areas have been identified and vulnerable areas have been slated for elevation. Green asked how the committee can be supportive of the efforts Greenberg-Lemos and her department are working on and their future plans as well as how best to communicate with her. Greenberg-Lemos said it is important to be aware of the grants each entity is working on. She is supportive of regional grants but is very busy now with the grants the department is working on especially with the new responsibilities of COVID 19 and the summer season. Ryan and Magenau asked several specific questions and Greenberg-Lemos will email them more specific answers especially as progress is made and said there is good communication with both committee members. Greenberg-Lemos left the meeting at this point.

Regional greenhouse gas reduction efforts: Mead-Fox sent the committee members a document via email the day of the meeting.¹ He stated that it was only for information. He does not expect any action will be taken as a result of the information. There is a Cape wide group that was formed the previous Thursday. The name is Cape Cod Climate Action Network (CCCAN). He was invited to attend the virtual meeting. He asked if we agreed with the work plan. Elkin said it looks like everything we are already doing. Cumbler left the meeting at 4:00 pm. Green asked if this is a duplicate of what the CCC is already doing. Shapiro expressed he wants to go ahead with the Outer Cape meetings and not wait for the other Cape wide group. Mead-Fox wants to go ahead and work with CCCAN, the CC Climate Collaborative and the Outer Cape group. Elkin said it would be beneficial if everyone can come together to discuss what each group is doing.

A discussion was held regarding the slide deck of ideas Mead-Fox presented² at the last committee meeting with Orleans and Truro. There were revisions and they were not adopted as Mead-Fox stated at that meeting, instead he emailed the revisions and emails from committee members. Green also emailed the committee members her revisions and cover email³ because Mead-Fox's document did not accurately reflect her revisions. Shapiro had criticism of net zero as being the focus of the endeavor. His major concern is the use of fossil fuels for heating buildings. Green agreed, she said some committee members talk about net zero and some talk about greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction. We should reach an agreement as to which it is or if it is something else and then define what it is. Elkin said it must be no GHG emissions. There was talk about cap and trade. Green objected to supporting that concept broadly since it could become a misused trading commodity and the next bubble. One of Green's objections to the presentation which she worked on for over 4 hours was that there is alarmist language throughout. She does not think this is necessary because the Outer Cape is an enlightened community, realizes that climate change is a problem and in the age of COVID 19 people do not need to be presented with alarmist statements that create panic. They want to know what is realistic for them to do. The others did not agree nor did they agree with most revisions Green made in order to streamline the presentation, add page numbers, remove the duplications and stick to the facts. The committee agreed to revise one slide with language Green added on the slide that is titled; How can it be done (continued), subtitled Five Suggested Goals (continued). It was agreed that the section Energy supply would read as follows: *Energy supply* - education, promotion, and financing for municipal, business and home renewable energy production of responsible solutions that do not adversely impact the healthy and safety of Cape citizens. All committee members agreed with Brigham's revisions. Tash asked for clarification as to who the audience was for this presentation. Mead-Fox said it was for a general audience. Tash asked for an executive summary and a short slide deck for SelectBoards as well as a slide on what we have already accomplished for the municipality and for the community. Mead-Fox said his idea was for the five areas there would be a team working on each. Elkin said this is preaching to the choir, that Cape Light Compact does some of what Mead-Fox proposes a team to do, and there should be metrics to evaluate GHG emissions and reductions. Tash recommended contacting the media to publicize the effort.

Regional High School building: Tash said that the vote on the High School (HS) building project will be put off until next spring town meetings. Elkin said he doesn't think that installing a ground source heat pump for heating and cooling would cost much more than the system proposed currently. Tash asked how much more. Elkin will research the topic. Ryan suggested the committee go to the press about the issue of a net zero building. She talked about developing a press release and reach out to all media

sources. Magenau stated her discomfort for doing so. Brigham said he is in favor of reaching out to the editor of one news media outlet. Elkin was in favor of starting a PR campaign. Green expressed the opinion to not move forward with this effort for several reasons. She said we should let the Selectboard and Town Administrator know our intentions for a media campaign so they can provide feedback if they are agreeable with this strategy and so they are not blindsided, i.e. asked for comments by the media and have no awareness of the situation. Also, we met with the towns of Orleans and Truro. The outcome of that meeting was to collaborate and write a letter the Selectboards in each town can sign and send to the appropriate people involved with the HS and the design team. For us to strike out and do something else without their collaboration does not sound like a good idea. Elkin and Ryan will work on a press release and email a draft to committee members for their revisions.

Global Covenant of Mayors/Green Community Act reporting: Shapiro is working with Cape Light Compact to fill in missing information. August is the completion date. There are several solar readings that need to be completed at the specific facility. Elkin and Brigham will do this together.

Old Business: Brigham is still working on the consolidated bill for the solar project. He had a recent conversation with the Dept. of Public Works and their request is to look at a bill that is more recent than 2014. Brigham is working on this. Elkin would like this treated as if it is income to the town from an outside source to rent the landfill. This will be less work and have the added benefit that if the electricity looks expensive, less will be used. Tash agreed that this would be less work.

New Business: Magenau sent the committee members an article in the Cape Cod Times⁴ regarding a sea bin program that collects plastic pollution in harbors. The device needs to be emptied twice a day. The program is being implemented in several Cape locations and there is an opportunity for other towns to participate. All members agreed it was a good idea. Mead-Fox suggested talking with the Harbormaster and the Shellfish constable. Tash suggested talking to SPAT and also considering a GoFundme site. Green suggested talking with the Recycling Committee for their support and possible volunteers. Brigham stated that interest rates hit new lows and thinks we should reach out to the high school regarding locking in financing for the project.

Motion: Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Brigham seconded. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ CCCAN workplan and email from Mead-Fox

² Mead-Fox slide deck and email from Mead-Fox

³ Green slide deck and email from Green to Mead-Fox with revisions

⁴ CC Times article with email from Magenau