

**Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of November 16, 2020
Remote Participation
7:00 p.m.**

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

Guests: Bob Higgins-Steele and Maxine Lipeles

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

This Zoom meeting was recorded and posted on Town website.

BUSINESS

Review of rules for remote participation under open meeting law (OML): Elkin gave an introduction to Open Meeting Law and Zoom meeting remote participation. He stated a role call vote must be taken.

Mead-Fox requested the meeting be held for one hour and therefore end by 8:00 pm. He stated that most Zoom meetings he attends do not go longer than one hour. Several others agreed.

Approval of minutes:

Motion: Magenau moved to approve minutes with minor revisions she and Green suggested¹. Ryan seconded. The motion carried 7-0

Discussion and review of grant proposal status: Ryan updated the committee. Ryan spoke with the Cape Cod Commission regarding the MVP grant and it was decided to apply for this grant again in the spring. The BRICK grant deadline is Dec. 11 and this is for a generator for the Council on Aging. She and Magenau participated in a Zoom meeting with the Town Administrator regarding the low lying roads and the priorities the town has for the roads. The TA will communicate with the Dept. of Public Works to discuss low lying roads and what roads are DPW priorities and get back in touch with Ryan and Magenau. Cumbler spoke about natural solutions for low lying roads.

Committee input to the local comprehensive plan: Elkin said the draft section on energy was sent to committee members. Green did not receive it. Elkin said it will be emailed again and he would like to have a meaningful conversation about it at the next meeting.

Global Covenant of Mayors/Green Community Act reporting: Shapiro said he needs an agreement from the town and a two year commitment with objectives in order for him to make a submission regarding the Global Covenant of Mayors. He is looking for the Selectboard to approve the update in mid December before it is submitted. The greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory is completed.

Discussion of and possible motion to support for specific goals for GHG reductions: Elkin wants specific guidelines.

Discussion of new Nauset Regional High School building: Elkin has heard back from the team working on the design of the new building. They are considering suggestions for a different heating and cooling system. Air source heat pumps may be viable and cost effective. There were two options given:

- a. all electric system \$650,000
- b. some natural gas heating with the ability to convert to all electric \$250,000

Elkin thinks the next step is to ask the Selectboard to select an option. It was also suggested to ask the Cape Light Compact if they could give a grant to cover the costs, or some of the costs. A discussion was held and it was agreed that if the committee votes to recommend the all electric system upfront, it will let the Selectboard know the committee supports this option.

Motion: Cumbler moved to recommend the all electric option to the Selectboard. Green seconded. The motion carried 7-0

Discussion of PV array on landfill and other possible PV installations: Green said she spoke with the Town Administrator about this and was in attendance at the Selectboard meeting when the topic was discussed. The judge did respond to the town attorney who then responded to the letter from the judge. The town is now waiting to hear back from the judge. Elkin said an alternate approach is being discussed to see if Eversource will accept a lease from the town to move the project along. Tash talked about possible other locations for PV installations. The roof of the Elementary School was discussed as well as overcoming obstacles to said proposed project.

Board of Building Regulations and Standards hearing on Net Zero stretch code: Mead-Fox said he is moving forward to lobby for the revised stretch code. He plans to propose at the next Planning Board (PB) meeting a motion for the PB to agree to a net zero stretch code.

Discussion of community outreach program for 2021 – Outer Cape Energize and joint possible actions with other energy committees: Mead-Fox is working with Bob Steele of Truro. They are revising the PowerPoint presentation. They are looking at the Outer Cape now for the program but will discuss including the entire Cape soon.

Request for future agenda topics: Fuel efficiency vehicles for police cruiser replacements. There is a MA approved list of EV police cruisers. It is known that one other town has EV police cruisers. Elkin will research the topic to find more information for next meeting.

Old Business: Cumbler asked Green about the Nov. election in regards to the County, including the Commissioners and when new positions begin. Green stated that Forest and Lyons will be the new County Commissioners and they will be sworn in after Jan. 1st. She will be sworn in again as the Wellfleet Assembly Delegate after Jan. 1st also.

Green stated that she did contact the Office of the Attorney General and spoke with the attorney of the day. She was told that having a majority of the WECAC members call Elkin to discuss his opinion and/or for him to tell members his interpretation of how the committee should address issues at the Cape Cod Commission meeting is a clear violation of Open Meeting Law (OML). Also, it is a violation of the OML to express your opinion in an email to a majority of the WECAC. Both are considered deliberation outside of a meeting with a quorum of the committee. This deliberation must take place in a meeting. Green asked that no one do this again.

[Mead-Fox, Shapiro and Cumbler left the meeting – 8:00 pm]

Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters: Brigham discussed the topic of solar credits and how they can be applied. Elkin suggested Brigham write a letter to the state agency in charge of these matters and ask them to communicate with Eversource to ask that we receive help from Eversource to figure out how best to deal with this issue. Brigham is also waiting until the new town accountant is hired.

New Business: The next meeting will be held on December 14 at 7:00 pm.

Motion: Brigham moved to adjourn the meeting. Green seconded. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

¹ Minutes