

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of February 16, 2021
Remote Participation
4:00 p.m.

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

Guests: Selectboard member Ryan Curley and Alex McWilliams from EF Winslow

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

This Zoom meeting was recorded and posted on the 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.

Approval of minutes:

Motion: Green moved to approve minutes of 1/14/21. Elkin seconded. The motion carried 7-0

Old Business: Alex McWilliams from EF Winslow Plumbing and Heating presented an overview of air source heat pump technology. He spoke about ductless mini-splits and also about the technology using a central ducted system. He was asked numerous questions by members of the committee. He talked about open and closed loop systems, assessing different homes for appropriate heating and cooling systems, thermostats, the Cape climate in relation to the technology and costs. He is willing to answer any further questions we may have.

Discussion and review of grant proposal status: Ryan and Magenau talked about the status of several grants.

A. The municipal vulnerability grant submitted last fall through the Cape Cod Commission was resubmitted partnering with other towns. This grant is for a feasibility study of two low lying roads per town.

B. Ryan and Magenau attended the Municipal Vulnerabilities series of webinars. This showed examples of communities that have been successful in securing the grants, how communities have utilized these grants and gave ideas for what towns looking for funding might include in the grant application in order to be successful.

1. An example is Braintree in demonstrating the objectives of healthier wetlands leading to increasing fish and plant populations. As applied to Wellfleet this may include the Herring River project.

2. Another example is the focus on social justice and equity by increasing greener parklands. As applied to Wellfleet this may include the elderly living alone and their vulnerability to storms and flooding.

3. There was an emphasis on partnerships, working with NGOs in towns, and other town committees. Another take away was to break projects into smaller workable projects and get partners lined up.

Magenau spoke about the last presentation which showed how towns which are similar in size to Wellfleet were able to partner and form alliances. Committee liaisons will be helpful. Ryan said they

reached out to the Truro Climate Action Committee in order to work together and they are interested to do so.

Community Liaisons: Cumbler suggested it is important to reach out to the Bike and Walkways Committee.

[5:30 pm, Cumbler, Tash and Mead-Fox left the meeting]

Selectboard issues:

Discussion of Fuel Efficient Automobile Policy for Town: Selectboard member Curley presented an overview of the status of new hybrid and electric vehicles (EVs) the town is considering to purchase. Members of the committee asked him multiple questions. Some urged Curley to support a wider adoption of EVs than the town is planning, including possible purchase of EV police vehicles. The committee members expressed support for Curley's forward thinking and would like to work with the Selectboard when appropriate.

Discussion of new Nauset Regional High School (NRHS) building: Elkin had drafted a letter to the Selectboard asking for them to support the adoption of an all electric building. He gave an overview of the letter and asked for support of the concept.

Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters: Brigham received information regarding two years of data from the Elementary School. He will use this as a template and has put the data in a spreadsheet. He is waiting for data from the DPW. He has one year of data. Elkin suggested Brigham put together his best estimate and send the information to Ameresco. This can be revised after six months

Status of Landfill PV: The Selectboard approved the lease. The project may move forward swiftly from this point.

[5:55 pm, Brigham and Curley left the meeting.]

Old Business: The next meeting date was set for March 2 at 4:00 pm.

Motion: Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Magenau seconded. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary