

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of April 6, 2021
Remote Participation
4:00 p.m.

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

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 4:04 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 roll call vote must be taken.

Approval of minutes:

Motion: Magenau moved to approve minutes of 2/16/21. Ryan seconded. The motion carried 7-0

Global Covenant of Mayors status and actions: Shapiro gave an overview of the current situation and obstacles he has found. The reviewer has pointed out that a document is labeled Draft and therefore our town has been rated not satisfactory. This is actually a final document and the file name will be changed. In general, the concept that a climate goal should not be claimed if it can not be achieved was discussed.

Liaison with other towns: Mead-Fox is working with the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (5Cs) on a webinar and series of seminars on climate change and climate action. Elkin asked Mead-Fox to email to the WECAC members a copy of the final presentation. Shapiro stated that the Covenant is interested in what towns are doing about different groups of people who are impacted by climate change such as the elderly including who is affected and what actions will be taken to effect change. The work Mead-Fox is doing can help with the Covenant work Shapiro is doing.

New Business: A discussion took place about social justice and the elderly. Mead-Fox stated that 5Cs has a social justice group. Elkin is interested in our elderly population and how it is impacted should there be an emergency due to climate change.

Ryan noticed several EVs at Eastham town hall and asked if anyone had information about them. She was asked by the committee to find out more about the vehicles and to report back to the committee at the next meeting.

The next meeting date is Tuesday, May 4th at 7:00 pm.

Old Business: A follow up discussion was held regarding the previous meeting presentation about heat pump technology. Shapiro said that there will need to be a financial transformation in order for there to

be an uptake of this technology. Elkin said the state has a loan program it is funding with more resources. Magenau reviewed the information gleaned at the last meeting and confirmed that if one installs heat pumps one also keeps the oil furnace as a back up heat source. This information is disappointing to her and others. It was agreed that the role of this committee is to educate the public about the benefits of the technology and to continue to gather information.

Discussion and review of grant proposal status: Ryan and Magenau updated the committee on the status of several grants.

A. The municipal vulnerability grant submitted last fall through the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) will be resubmitted with partnering towns. The deadline is May 7th. This grant is for a feasibility study of two low lying roads per town. Ryan and Magenau are working with the CCC to add more academic research in the grant proposal. Ryan asked that Elkin sign a letter of support to an updated letter from the last time the grant was submitted and Elkin agreed to do so.

B. Ryan said the town may need to match the grant if it is accepted and the amount is \$7,400. Elkin will look into logistics. Town meeting previously approved more than that amount that was not used but the time limit on the approvals from that town meeting may have expired. Elkin will report back to the committee at the next meeting.

[5:00 pm, Mead-Fox left the meeting]

Status of Landfill PV: The Selectboard signed the lease and it has been transmitted to Eversource. The next step is for Eversource to install 5 electric poles. Ameresco said it may take Eversource up to three months to install the poles. Once this is done, the wiring work should take one week.

Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters: Brigham filled out the form and has sent it in. He is also updating the spreadsheet with information recently received from town hall. Elkin asked Brigham to draft a letter to the Department of Public Utilities in order to simplify the situation. Elkin will collaborate with Brigham.

Review of new state legislation: A discussion was held regarding the highlights of the legislation. It was suggested to look online for good summaries.

Community Liaisons: Shapiro is helping Truro to join the Global Covenant of Mayors and said they are making good progress.

Ryan asked about setting up a meeting with other towns and brainstorming with them with the objective of conducting webinars to educate the public. Committee members had the confidence for her to move forward with logistics for a virtual meeting.

Brigham spoke about the work the town of Newton is doing with newsletters and webinars. He forwarded information to the committee members regarding Earth Day online events. A discussion was held and the consensus was to see if our town could be added to their website as a co-

sponsor for the events and if so to get permission from town hall to do so and to link the town website to the educational events for Earth Day.

Discussion of committee input to the local comprehensive plan: Magenau was interested in pursuing this topic. A subcommittee was formed. Magenau, Ryan and Green volunteered to follow up on the topic. It is Magenau's opinion to use the committee agreed upon local comprehensive plan as a basis for formulating goals for the Energy & Climate Action Committee.

Motion: Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Magenau seconded. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary