

**Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of December 21, 2021
Remote Participation
7:00 p.m.**

Present: Richard Elkin, Lilli-Ann Green, Suzanne Ryan, and Robert Shapiro

At the time of the meeting Gorham Brigham stated he was an approved committee member by Selectboard but had not taken the oath of office: Carol Magenau said town hall had contacted her and she was no longer a committee member because her term expired in 2021.

At the following meeting, Magenau stated Town Hall had made a mistake by saying her term of office expired in 2021 when it actually expires in 2022 and therefore was a member of the committee. Per the direction of the Town Clerk, the minutes reflect what was stated on 12-21-21.

Guest: Linda Lancaster

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 7:12 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: Elkin moved to approve minutes. Green seconded. The motion carried 4-0.

WECAC consideration of supporting the Green Futures Act: Guest Lancaster from Plymouth spoke to the committee members. Her group is reaching out to energy committees for support and lobbying our Cape state delegation to be supportive of this bill in the MA legislature. They have a commitment from a number of environmental groups to be supportive. The main thrust is to transition to all electric. There would be a price on 'pollution' (heating oil, propane and gas) in order to create incentives for people to switch to all electric. There would be help for low income people. Committee members and others in attendance asked questions. Shapiro asked who would bear the burden of the extra charges, for example would a propane company pay more and would that therefore be passed onto the consumer. The answer seemed to be yes. Green stated that there is a problem when the push is for consumers to transition to electric but once that is done, the consumer's electric consumption is higher and the Cape Light Compact (CLC) charges a higher rate for people who use more electricity. That does not seem like an incentive to make a transition to all electric. Elkin will follow up with CLC and ask why. Lancaster will ask the climate group and get back to us. Brigham asked for details about the bill status. There has been a hearing and Lancaster as well as others are looking for broader support because they would like the bill to be reported favorably out of committee. Brigham asked about the bigger load on the grid, can the grid keep up with the demand and are there provisions in the bill so the grid would be able to meet the need. Lancaster did not know the answer but will get back to the committee with the answer. Elkin said that electric rates will go up next year for CLC. He stated the bill we are being asked to support charges

an additional amount to the ratepayer. He asked who will administer this additional cost and the revenues. When Lancaster did not have the answer, Elkin asked that she also find out why the charges, administration and incentives are not a part of Mass Save. Lancaster said she will find answers for the committee.

Status of Landfill PV: Elkin stated the PV panels were activated and the landfill is now operational. Elkin spoke about new potential sites for solar canopies at town beaches on the ocean side. Brigham cautioned doing so due to erosion.

Shapiro notified the committee that he would need to leave in a few minutes because it was close to 8pm.

Global Covenant of Mayors status and actions: Shapiro updated the committee. There is a need for a long range plan. He asked for us to work on a legal document that can be agreed upon by the committee and sent to the Selectboard for their approval. Until there is approval of the comprehensive plan, a long range plan of this nature that is in an accessible place may be sufficient for grants. Magenau will circulate a draft of the local comprehensive plan with suggested edits to committee members via email. Elkin will ask for the topic to be on the Selectboard meeting agenda.

Elkin said we will just continue the meeting after Shapiro leaves. Green said it's against open meeting law (OML) since Brigham and Magenau need to follow up with the Town Clerk and be official members of the committee, as they are not at this point. Elkin argued that if they are not members of the committee, he could turn off the recording of the meeting and we could follow the agenda of the meeting since it could be a group of friends meeting and talking about the items on the agenda. Green said it would violate OML.

Motion: Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Shapiro seconded. The motion carried 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

The other members of the committee and others stayed on the meeting. Elkin turned off the recording and proceeded with the meeting. Green stated we can't do this. Elkin continued the meeting. Green left the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary