

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes for 25 May 2023

Remote Participation

Present: Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian (Chair), Carol Magenau (Secretary), Gorham Brigham, Dick Elkin

Guest: Cynthia Franklin

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan-Ishkanian at 7:19PM.

The meeting was recorded. Ryan-Ishkanian introduced Cynthia Franklin, a potential new member of the committee.

Business

Motion to approve minutes of the April meeting made by Brigham, seconded by Magenau, passed 4-0-0.

At the request of Ryan-Ishkanian, Elkin will update the **committee mailing list** to remove former member Charles (Chuck) Cole.

Elkin reported that the Wellfleet contingent will carpool to the **electric vehicle show** on June 3. Magenau reported that two other folks from Eastham and Orleans will help staff our exhibit table, and one of the people from Truro will create a sign.

On behalf of Mead-Fox Ryan-Ishkanian reported that the Committee has received a request from Brian Boyle (Truro) to collaborate on a joint builder education effort regarding the **new stretch code**. Since Mead-Fox feels he cannot take the lead, is there someone else on the committee willing to coordinate this? Elkin volunteered.

Grants – Ryan-Ishkanian reported that there was a meeting Tuesday morning with representatives of the Cape Cod Commission about a **Climate Action Plan** for Wellfleet. In attendance were Ryan-Ishkanian, Elkin, Magenau and Green from the Committee, plus Steve Tupper (Deputy Director) and Helaine-Rose Goudreau (Special Projects Coordinator) from the Cape Cod Commission, plus Rebecca Roughley, Wellfleet Assistant Town Administrator. Many points were raised in the ensuing discussion:

- Phase 1 is the visioning process, which Tupper estimated might take a year. The Commission has created a tool which is still in draft form. Magenau stated that what we saw of the Municipal Climate Action Toolkit was very impressive, and that the Commission is seeing their work with us as being a model for other towns. Brigham asked whether we would be trained in the use of the tool.

- Elkin expressed skepticism about the value of working with the Commission. Elkin has drafted a plan using Wayland as a template because it seemed to be written by activists rather than bureaucrats.
- Magenau stated she felt it was a mistake that the Commission's action plan did not include anything about food, because eliminating beef and dairy and cutting down on food waste are the most impactful things an individual can do to reduce greenhouse gases, even though they are indirect effects (i.e. the greenhouse gases are produced elsewhere on our behalf).
- Ryan-Ishkanian stated that she did not think the Commission staff intend to write our plan for us. Ryan-Ishkanian raised the issue of metrics, and it was agreed that this was an important part of the plan so we can measure progress. Elkin mentioned specifically the rate of adoption of electronic vehicles, and the full electrification of houses, as well as the number of homes getting energy audits and acting thereupon. Magenau stated her hope that the Assessor's database could be upgraded to include the information we need, and Elkin suggested making a request to the Selectboard outlining the information we need.
- Ryan-Ishkanian said that the Commission staff would try to be at our next meeting, and we should be prepared with questions for them.
- Elkin stated that the Commission is working on how to collect data on electric vehicles. He stated that the Commission's climate action plan is vague with no specifics on priorities, timeframes, or responsibilities. Ryan-Ishkanian said we wanted to avoid such an outcome.
- Elkin stated that reducing greenhouse gases is properly the purview of the committee because it involves public outreach. But he feels that adaptation efforts are the purview of town staff and are adequately covered by the Hazard Mitigation Plan [updated 2022], and that the committee's role would be helping to get grants.
- Elkin asked Magenau to send out the documents we will be reviewing, and to draft something about food/consumption and climate change.

Request for future topics –

- Elkin suggests approaching the group working on Maurice's Campground about incorporating green housing standards.
- Elkin suggests working on Level 2 charging stations at motels, and perhaps trying to convince the town to put metered electric outlets in the parking lots at the beaches. Magenau asked why we haven't pursued solar in parking lots. Elkin said the town is getting all the electricity it needs from the landfill solar installation, so we wouldn't qualify for discounts. Only White Crest Beach was considered because it is the largest, and there is concern about blowing sand at that location. Brigham pointed out that the town will eventually need more electricity as

buildings are converted from fossil fuels. He also suggested the possibility that land received in exchange for the landing strip (town-owned but within the National Park boundaries) could be used as a location for solar. Elkin pointed out that the question of charging stations and solar at beach parking lots is part of the larger question of how to get summer visitors to support electrification.

Cynthia Franklin was asked if she had questions, and she asked what the committee's role was in getting grants. We keep an eye out for opportunities and work with town staff. Cynthia shared that she has a background in environmental education and health administration, as well as some grant writing experience.

Motion to adjourn was made by Brigham, seconded by Magenau, voted 4-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:22PM.

Next meeting: 15 June 2023 at 7:15PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Magenau

Carol [Mary C.] Magenau, Secretary