

**Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of May 18, 2020**  
**Remote Participation**  
**7:00 p.m.**

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

**Finance Committee Liaison:** Jeff Tash

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

The meeting was videotaped.

**BUSINESS**

**Approval of minutes:**

**Motion:** Shapiro moved to approve minutes as submitted<sup>1</sup>. Cole seconded. The motion carried 7-0

**Discussion and Review of Grant Application Proposals:** Ryan presented an overview:

1. The Green Communities grant deadline was May 1 and a proposal for \$142,000 was submitted. The Department of Energy Resources confirmed receipt and asked questions which have been referred to Rise Engineering for response. The heat pump hot water heater for the COA may not have the payback time sufficient for the grant parameters.

2. The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) grant deadline is June 11 and Ryan is working with the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) in order to submit a grant proposal. The Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant recently given to the CCC will be the match for the MVP grant. Ryan said it would be helpful for a letter of support from the committee to accompany the MVP grant proposal which is a regional grant. She has asked other environmental groups in Wellfleet to also submit a letter of support.

**Motion:** Green moved to send the letter with the grant proposal as submitted to the committee for review by Ryan prior to the meeting<sup>2</sup>. Shapiro seconded. The motion carried 7-0

3. Ryan is talking with the Health Agent and the CCC regarding the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant. Magenau answered Elkin's question regarding the focus of the grant which is assessing coastal resilience and low lying roads. The CCC would like to add more items to the list and Elkin suggested contacting the town Dept of Public Works (DPW) for ideas.

4. There is a possibility of a MVP grant application in the fall to cover at risk populations and building vulnerabilities. The CCC is interested to partner with Wellfleet.

**Status of selectboard discussion:** A letter was sent to the Selectboard and the committee was told that the town is very busy working on the COVID 19 pandemic and will not be able to address the topics the committee has asked to discuss.

**Review of implications of new pending state legislation:** Elkin updated the committee that the Senate bill S2477 has been referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

**Global Covenant of Mayors status and action:** Shapiro is developing a plan to submit with specific proposals. August is the completion date. He will update the vulnerability section with specific proposals being worked on by our committee and the CCC. He is investigating approaches to improve the GHG report in two areas: Transportation and the use of Propane and Fuel oil for building heating.

**Large solar array update:** The town is still waiting for land court to take action. Green followed up and found that Barnstable County currently does stamp and register items using a virtual process.

**Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters:** Brigham followed up to verify a list of 18 accounts and 5 service addresses for accuracy. He wants to be sure there aren't any other accounts or addresses for accounts. He would like to know where the one bill should be sent and who should sign the application. He received a response from the DPW stating there is a lot going on and Brigham will receive a response to his questions in a few weeks.

**Joint actions with Truro committees:** No action taken.

**Request for future agenda topics:** Collaboration with the CCC where possible. Further discussion regarding the new high school and how to move the project to be net zero. Discussion of the film "Planet of the Humans", a movie produced by Michael Moore and also the mini-series on Netflix called "Inside Bill's Brain: Decoding Bill Gates". Outer Cape Energize update and further possible action steps. Discussion regarding workshops and training with builders or other education opportunities regarding net zero building. How to develop web resources for this time by creating a virtual tour of net zero homes.

**Old Business:** It was decided to keep meeting ID for Zoom meeting. Cumbler spoke about a version of the 350.org template petitioned article for annual town meeting has been filed in every Cape town. Cumbler, Mead-Fox and Elkin talked about the low income housing project on Lawrence Rd as a net zero project, funding for this and progress in that direction. Elkin spoke about the new high school and the interest in it being net zero.

**New Business:** The next meeting will take place on June 15 at 7:00 pm via Zoom. Cumbler said that a hearing for the 350.org petition to the CCC to change the Regional Policy Plan (RPP) will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup>. Meeting materials are online at the CCC website. The RPP was recently adopted after two years of meetings and planning. Shapiro stated he doesn't have confidence in calling for getting to zero emissions without credible methods that will reliably do so. He doesn't think this is the way to approach the issue. Green asked the committee members to watch the film "Planet of the Humans", a movie produced by Michael Moore and also the mini-series on Netflix called "Inside Bill's Brain: Decoding Bill Gates". She said that it would be interesting to have a discussion about both. She thinks that there are good and valid points in the film and that the mini-series may have a credible solution for waste water and energy independence but would like the suggestions validated by scientists and researchers that the solutions proposed would indeed be responsible and not harm the health and safety of people nearby.

Mead-Fox spoke with a staff member of the CCC about a number of items including; 1. Nauset Regional High School is not designed to be highly energy efficient and asked if they have any thoughts about assisting with an effort to change the School's design to Net-Zero; 2. Net-zero Stretch code and community education program as well as targeted education for town building inspectors and local contractors on the concept and notion of net-zero design and construction; 3. A regional sub-group on the Outer Cape that could include linking with the Barnstable County Coastal Management Committee; 4. Receiving information regarding Rte. 6 raising and other climate driven road work; 5. Estimation of completion dates for the various components of the "Toolkit", the CCC is developing, what will ultimately be in the Toolkit, and when the total Toolkit might be completed.

**Motion:** Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Cole seconded. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

<sup>1</sup> Minutes