

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes for 18 January 2024

Remote Participation

Present: Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian (Chair), Lilli-Ann Green (Vice-Chair), Carol Magenau (Secretary), Gorham Brigham, Dick Elkin, Cynthia Franklin, Nancy Gralla

Guests: Steven Tupper (Cape Cod Commission), Patricia Taylor

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan-Ishkanian at 7:15.

The meeting was recorded.

Business

Chair Ryan-Ishkanian requested that everyone **stay muted** and raise hand to request to speak so that we are not talking over each other.

[19:16] **Motion to approve the minutes** for December made by Elkin, seconded by Franklin, approved 6-0-0 [Brigham not yet present, arrived 7:19].

[19:18] Ryan-Ishkanian asked Steve Tupper from the Cape Cod Commission to talk about the **Climate Action Plan**. Noting the recent resignations of both the Town Administrator and the Assistant Town Administrator, Tupper emphasized the importance of town support to ensure consistency and coordination. He commended the Committee for its accomplishments, and the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan for addressing climate change adaptation using a robust community outreach process. He has reviewed the draft Climate Action Plan [CAP] and sees it as an excellent start. But he pointed out that it reads as coming from the Committee, whereas a requirement of the Global Covenant of Mayors is that the plan come from the highest elected body. It's important that the plan be equitable and actionable. There should also be a process for public engagement, as well as buy-in from the Selectboard and town administration, especially where our plan states "the town will...". Tupper had supplied a document [Wellfleet CAP Visioning DRAFT] based on the assumption that there would be support from Town administration, so either the process would need to be adjusted, or the involvement of the Commission be put on hold until staff support is in place. Commission staff only work directly with committees at the behest of town administration and Selectboard. Ryan-Ishkanian stated that there needs to be full buy-in and engagement from the town. Elkin raised the point that we need to identify who is taking specific actions, and to coordinate with relevant departments or committees. He also stated that some of the action items in the Plan will be proposed at Town Meeting, such as the proposal to buy all-green electricity. Green stated that we serve at the pleasure of the Selectboard, and she feels that both the CAP draft and the Commission's visioning plan need to be presented to the Selectboard before we proceed. Ryan-Ishkanian asked Tupper about next steps. Tupper said the town would need to decide, but that there are pieces on which the Committee may wish to work, independent of the CAP process. Ryan-Ishkanian asked whether the visioning process includes looking at all the policies, projects, and objectives of town entities to be sure they include climate action as appropriate. Tupper stated that could be part of the CAP but was not a pre-requisite; looking at other Town plans is included in the visioning process but is more limited. Green asked whether the Commission's

legal team could review the Plan at some point. Tupper said yes, but it is likely that it would involve identifying areas that Town Counsel should review as they would not give specific legal advice on town matters. Elkin suggested that the visioning plan be reduced to only include things specific to mitigation, and that the plan should be presented to the Selectboard. He said he had already contacted the seasonal residents' association about doing a presentation for them. Tupper responded that he agrees that the plan should focus on mitigation, but that prioritization should include both areas. Franklin asked whether it was okay to proceed with outreach activities while in the process of completing the plan. Tupper felt there was no problem since education was part of the committee's charge. Magenau asked whether the town planner, for which applications are due by the end of January, would be an appropriate staff liaison for us and the Commission. Tupper responded that it was important for that position to be "tied in" to Administration and Selectboard, and able to facilitate communication with other town staff and committees.

Franklin stated that she thought a summary of the draft CAP should be presented to the Selectboard. Green suggested an executive summary, but proposed that the draft and the Commission's visioning statement would also be available. Elkin said the summary should be a PowerPoint presentation, rather than another page of text. Tupper suggested that community involvement and equity were important elements. Elkin asked if Tupper would revise the visioning document to focus on mitigation, and Tupper agreed to consider it. [Tupper left the meeting at 8:03PM]

Elkin spoke in favor of abandoning the visioning document (or adopting a revised and reduced plan), and Green disagreed. Franklin said the formal process for outreach in the visioning plan was a good idea. Gralla commented that it's a 3-step process, and if we have done the visioning then we are at the public outreach stage, followed by education and implementation. Elkin proposed sending the plan and asking for comments from all committees and departments. Gralla suggested there might be a subset of those with which a discussion would be useful. Franklin suggested informing the Selectboard, then tabling the report until administrative staff was available; a discussion about when that might be ensued. Ryan-Ishkanian suggested that she and Elkin would develop a PowerPoint to present to the Selectboard, to be distributed for comment before the next meeting. She would incorporate comments received and redistribute. Green asked that this process be okayed by someone at Town Hall who knows about Open Meeting law.

[20:24] Franklin asked everyone to think about potential **student involvement** for a discussion at the next meeting.

[20:28] Gralla reported on Green Communities grants that Wellfleet can't apply for another grant until the Fire Station's current grant is closed out. There are two grant cycles per year. Gralla and Elkin will be meeting with DPW dept. head Jay Norton to discuss the status of the Fire Station's grant and the schedule for **electrification of town buildings**. Ryan-Ishkanian asked about non-competitive GC grants, and Gralla said she would investigate.

[20:34] Magenau reported that she and Ryan-Ishkanian met with Naina at CDP and hope to be in good shape by April when the next questionnaire is released.

[20:35] **Future agenda topics** include voting on the presentation to the Selectboard about the Climate Action Plan, to include the issue of purchasing 100% renewable energy. Magenau

clarified that the figure supplied by Cape Light Compact is \$19,000 rather than \$18,000 [Mariel Marchand email 10/16/23].

[20:38] Franklin is working on researching programs in order to contact bike shop owners regarding **electric bikes**.

[20:39] The **broken solar arrays** should be added to the agenda for Gralla and Elkin's meeting with Jay Norton.

[20:42] Elkin reported that Google plans at some future date to supply data on the percentage of **actual vs. potential solar installations** over the previous 10 years. He recommended dropping the idea of doing a manual count.

[20:44] Franklin reported on the Truro Climate Action Committee's discussion of a climate change workshop popular in Europe [La Fresque du Climat/The Climate Fresk]. The 3-hour workshop would cost something in the range of \$1000 each if shared with other towns. Emily Beebe suggested that perhaps a public health focus would enable a source of funding from the Wellfleet Health Dept. Franklin expressed some skepticism about the value of the exercise at that cost, especially given how much our staff has to deal with at present. Truro would like to get commitments from other towns. Brigham wondered if the Cape Cod Commission might be involved. Materials are open source, but probably an experienced facilitator is needed.

[20:57] Magenau would like to see the **committee website** refocused and kept up to date, and would like someone to work with on it. Elkin said he would update it but would not contribute content.

Motion to adjourn was made by Green, voted 7-0-0. Meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Next meeting: 15 February, 7:15PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary C. Magenau

Carol [Mary C.] Magenau, Secretary