

**Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of July 9, 2020**  
**Remote Participation**  
**5:00 p.m.**

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

**Finance Committee Liaison:** Jeff Tash

**Truro Energy Committee:** Robert Higgins-Steele and Brian Boyle

**Truro Climate Action Committee:** Michael Holt

**Orleans Renewable Energy Committee:** Kevin Clements

**Orleans Elementary School Committee:** Hank Schumacher

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

This Zoom meeting was recorded and posted on Town website.

**BUSINESS**

**Agenda:** Green asked for clarification about agenda, handouts and attendees. Elkin stated that as chair he called the meeting and invited Orleans to attend. He asked Mead-Fox to prepare documents for the meeting. Mead-Fox independently invited Truro to attend. He further clarified that the Wellfleet committee did not talk about a joint meeting nor had the committee talked as a committee about the documents Mead-Fox prepared. Truro representatives think the meeting was noticed as a meeting with Wellfleet and Orleans. Orleans representative thinks the meeting was noticed as a meeting with Wellfleet and Truro. The Wellfleet meeting was noticed as a meeting with Orleans.

Mead-Fox stated his slide deck and document summary<sup>1</sup> was only ideas, everything is on the table and it is not an official position. He wanted to describe a plan, the team needed and action steps. Holt would like to further define net zero to include consumption of goods and services, waste disposal, town pension investments, agriculture and food. He will email Mead-Fox a more complete list. Shapiro stated if we are consistent with Governor Baker's mandate for MA to be net zero by 2050, we will be adding CO<sub>2</sub> to the environment until that date. He thinks we should research how to extract CO<sub>2</sub> from the environment.

Green spoke about the new high school (HS) design that is not net zero. She said it would be important to discuss strategies for collaboration so the current design will be reevaluated in light of the Governor's mandate. Elkin agreed. He stated the HS would need a major renovation in the not too distant future if it is not built to net zero standards. He thinks it is important for the HS to change the cooking facilities to electric and to install a ground source heat pump for heating and cooling or at least make sure this technology can be retrofitted in the design that is currently accepted. Tash asked if anyone knew of a vendor who can install a ground source heat pump for a project of this scope. No one did. Elkin will research topic. Hank Schumacher from the Orleans Elementary School Committee joined the conversation. Higgins-Steele said that Mass Save has a grant for a design package and the Dept. of Energy Resources (DOER) has a grant with the Cape Light Compact for a feasibility study for projects of this size. DOER also has a good video on the passive home that explores misconceptions on cost and

payback time of said design. He will research further to see if this concept may be appropriate for a project of this size and scope. Green suggested a letter be written expressing concerns and urging a reevaluation of the design. All of the Selectboards of towns in the regional school district and towns that send students to the HS could sign this letter. Holt suggested financial projections for the added cost and financing options with payback time would make the arguments stronger. Higgins-Steele thought including information about net zero technology and the payback time would strengthen the letter. Green will make calls to try to identify if there is funding for net zero projects since the Governor has mandated net zero by 2050. Higgins-Steele will draft a letter and email to all participants for review and revisions.

The conversation shifted to the slide deck of ideas presented by Mead-Fox. He said there would need to be community outreach and a lot of listening to people on the Outer Cape; the process would need to function like a business for the structure and implementation; the goals are flexible and he is open to feedback. Green stated in the goals described there is no discussion of economics, for example the impacts to the shellfish industry. Mead-Fox agreed. He stated he is open to revisions and people should contact him with any revisions within one week from this meeting.

Elkin and Green talked about the petitioned proposed changes to the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) Regional Policy Plan including the hearings. The summaries were quite different. Green suggested people look at the CCC website in order to understand the topic.

Holt suggested we discuss next steps. Elkin will invite Provincetown and Eastham to join discussions. Green suggested defining goals further. Shapiro would like to work on difficult problems of developing a greenhouse gas emissions baseline, developing a list of town committees that will support efforts of this group and offering people the opportunity to join the effort. Elkin talked about decarbonizing houses, airsource heat in homes and solar panels. Holt talked about how to begin discussions with the community to guide the process. Mead-Fox suggested broad support from Selectboards was needed and a shorter slide deck was needed to be developed for this effort. Green agreed with Mead-Fox to present a plan to the Selectboards with a shorter slide deck.

**Motion:** Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Elkin seconded. The motion carried 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> Mead-Fox slide deck and document