

Wellfleet Energy and Climate Action Committee
Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2020
Remote Participation
7:00 p.m.

Present: Richard Elkin, Lilli-Ann Green, Gorham Brigham, Carol Magenau and David Mead-Fox (Charles Cole joined the meeting at 8:00 pm, it was discovered that Mead-Fox was not on the call at that time.)

Finance Committee Liaison: Jeff Tash

Guest: Robert Higgins-Steele (Member of the Truro Climate Action Committee and Energy Committee) and Brian Boyle

Chair Elkin called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. and spoke about the Governor's letter that allowed the meeting to proceed via Zoom video conference and conference call.¹

The meeting was audiotaped.

BUSINESS

Approval of minutes:

Motion: Brigham moved to approve minutes as submitted². Green seconded. The motion carried 5-0

Joint actions with Truro committees: Truro is interested in working with Wellfleet on future grants.

Energy/building standards for new regional High School: A discussion was held and the consensus was that the committee is in favor of trying to work with those making decisions. The goal is to support efforts so the high school design is net zero. Higgins-Steele said Truro should also be in favor of this action. Elkin led a discussion as to what steps to take. Mead-Fox suggested meeting with Regional School board members. Green suggested talking with Town Administrator (TA) and/or Selectboard first to gather support and direction. Elkin will contact TA to add the item to Selectboard meeting agenda. A discussion was held regarding the cost of a net zero building. Tash gave the perspective as a Finance Committee member and talked about some of the objections that may be raised. There was consensus to talk with the Selectboard and see if they will support our committee to work with the Nauset Regional High School renovation team to move forward in designing and building a net zero building.

Review of implications of new pending state legislation^{3,4}: Elkin confirmed he has sent a letter to Chair and Vice Chair of the MA Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) with copies to Governor Baker, House Speaker Robert DeLeo, Senate President Karen Spilka, Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Sarah Peake. He had distributed the letter to committee members.

Review and discussion of 350.org and similar petitions and potential town meeting articles:

Motion: Magenau moved that the committee recommend article 23, Climate Change Grant Funding, on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Elkin seconded. The motion carried 5-0

A discussion was held regarding the citizens' petition, Article 32 for the town meeting warrant regarding a climate emergency⁵. Green stated opposition to wording and to calling for action steps for what the town is already doing. Elkin is open to working with Green on the wording to recognize what the town is already doing and to be more specific about action steps. Tash pointed out that the Bylaw Committee voted against recommending the article. Green will talk with a member of the committee to see what the objection is.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Promotion: Green had distributed a handout⁶ through the chair. It lists the EVs being sold currently in the United States and those planned for in 2020 with both make and model. She also proposed a date in the fall for the EV show as October 24th. Brigham agreed with the date. Others thought the COVID 19 situation is an unknown and recommended waiting a year until next spring. Green asked that Elkin add this item to the Selectboard agenda to see if the board agrees this concept is a good idea. Elkin would like Green to continue working on the project.

Discussion and Review of Grant Application Proposals⁷: Magenau presented an overview. The Cape Cod Commission (CCC) is working with Wellfleet on a vulnerability grant regarding a survey of low lying roads and parking lots. The CCC may have identified a foundation to fund this request. Elkin asked Magenau to research if there are grants for emergency generators for public buildings such as the library, elementary school and others perhaps under the coastal resiliency grants or any other such grant.

Green Communities Act resubmission: Magenau reported that the Cape Light Compact (CLC) has completed a report that identifies potential energy saving projects of three town buildings. Window shades are not feasible for the Green Communities grant due to payback time. Several other ideas were proposed for the buildings. Magenau and Ryan are waiting for the report regarding Town Hall. The library could use LED lighting that will have a 2 year payback. The Council on Aging (COA) could use LED lighting which CLC would pay 100%. The COA could replace its hot water heater with an energy efficient hot water heater or heat pump hot water heater and this would qualify for the grant. The Elementary School could use an energy management system which also would qualify for the grant. Green asked when the deadline to submit a grant application is. Magenau will research further.

Review of meeting with CLC on 95 Lawrence Rd and publicity for the meeting on grant: No further information available.

Suggestion for anti-idling signs at the library, Mayo Beach or the Pier: No further information.

Global Covenant of Mayors status and action: Magenau spoke with Shapiro and he plans to submit data to the Covenant in April.

Planning Board (PB) liaison and climate change model bylaw discussion: No update

Large solar array update: The town is still waiting for land court to take action.

Effort for consolidation of billing from town meters: Brigham has worked with the Town Administrator who copied him on a letter to Mass. Dept. of Energy Resources to advance his efforts to obtain Mass Energy Insight access⁸. Brigham has received a sample consolidated bill for the town of Yarmouth and has sent this to the Wellfleet Dept. of Public Works for their review and feedback. He has also received an email from DPW that the sample's format and content will meet the DPW's needs.

Request for future agenda topics of the committee: none

Old Business: none

New Business: Elkin will review the use of the Zoom conference call. Brigham suggested to mute mics as there was considerable feedback during the call.

Motion: Cole moved to adjourn the meeting. Green seconded. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Lilli-Ann Green, Committee Secretary

- ¹ Signed Open Meeting Law Order 3.12.20 (1)
- ² Minutes
- ³ MA Senate bill summary
- ⁴ MA Climate Bills 2020 (003)
- ⁵ Citizen petition
- ⁶ EV cars 3-17-20
- ⁷ DLTA Grant applications
- ⁸ SKM_C45820030510420