

Climate Action Committee Minutes

January 9, 2023/5:00 PM/ Eastham Room at the Eastham Library

Attendees: Roberta Longley (chair), Ellen Greer, Olav Hegland, Mike Sarcione (via Zoom), Cheryl Gayle (via Zoom)

Absent: Tom McNellis, Roy Merolli

Guests: Jerry Cerasale (CAC select board liaison), Marian Brunck (Eastham Citizen)

Introductions: The agenda for today's meeting is brief. We heard from the Nauset HS Green Club that they will not attend due to illness. This segment of the meeting will be postponed.

Administrative Matters:

Olav Hegland will take over as minute taker for the committee effective as of this meeting. This role was previously held by Ellen Greer. The Chair recognized Ellen for her service in this role.

Public Comments:

We are all required to do something for the climate. Request that the committee and the town consider the cost to residents when making climate action recommendations.

Comment about outreach to the community. Maybe use the transfer station to communicate important information to the public. The committee has a webpage on the town web page. Also discussed mass mailing campaigns to keep residents informed on what the town is doing on climate change.

Minutes: The December minutes were approved

Discussion:

Specialized municipal opt-in code

Discussion of whether Eastham should adopt the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) specialized code, which is designed to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. The Outer Cape Cod Climate Action group has also been discussing this.

CAC discussed how best to approach this with the town, including possibly scheduling meetings this winter with building inspectors and commissioners from Outer Cape towns to solicit their feedback.

Secondary discussion about how best to communicate with the Town of Eastham, including town inspector and commissioner, since adopting the code will require a zoning/building code change. Possibility of hosting short presentations with inspectors and builders for learning and buy-in, with the goal of presenting the specialized code plan to the Select Board.

Discussion of whether National Grid can share information about their plans and infrastructure for residents when they migrate from natural gas to electric. This included comments on whether there will be sufficient gas supply for residential, municipal, and commercial back-up generators. Discussion about the risks of adopting the specialized code will be added to a future agenda.

In addition to builder buy-in, discussed communicating with residents through information sessions and public hearing, since these hearings are required prior to presenting the plan to the Select Board.

Nauset High School Green Club:

Discussed meeting with the green club prior to the February CAC meeting to learn more about the Climate ambassador program.

Other Business:

Ideas for public education and outreach include using resources from MassSave and Cape Light Compact, as well as studying other towns strategies, such as Lexington.

Discussed the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Act. They have grant money for towns, including for developing climate action plans. The Town of Lincoln recently received \$100k from this program. Shana Brogan, the towns Projects & Procurement Director, has prepared an expression of interest on behalf of the committee and is waiting for feedback from the MVP program on whether Eastham is a fit for this program. The funding would primarily be **for** consultant services.

Next Meeting: Monday, February 13, 2023 @5:00 PM Town Hall, in-person/remote participation

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted: Olav Hegland