

Climate Action Committee Minutes for January 13, 2022

Committee attendance: Cheryl Gayle, Roberta Longley, Roy Merolli, Devon O'Rourke

Absent: Ellen Greer

1. Appointment of alternate to Climate Action Committee

- Cheryl has contacted the outreach committee that we weren't listed on the application, and they are working to correct it. Cheryl sought ideas from the committee on how to promote needs for requests to add members to the committee. Jared mentioned that the town is happy to support additional members, and noted that the request can be enacted at the next select board meeting if necessary. Rich confirmed we do not need to wait until at a later date, provided the clerk can swear them in.

2. Staff update

- Rich is expecting an update from the state for clarification of last elements needed for green community application, and is currently waiting on state for a legal interpretation of a town zoning by law.
- With the budget completed, Rich is now starting to evaluate Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative's response to solar request for proposals (RFP). Distributed Solar LLC has responded to Eastham's RFP requests, and used drone photography to estimate size and orientation of existing roof structures under consideration for solar panels. Electrical inspections have also been completed. Rich is talking with the project manager to review if the Distributed Solar response meets the demands from the town. The goal is to take the proposed maps to the select board and the Climate Action Committee to ensure there is nothing we have an issue with. The update will include not only the layout, but also estimated kWh and energy savings.
- Regarding the master planner process, Rich confirmed there were three respondents with a technical proposal, and the town's team has also done interviews with respondents. One applicant was ranked highest among all evaluators. An announcement is expected for that selection in a month or so. It was unclear if the Climate Committee will be guaranteed a meeting with the selected master planner, but Rich mentioned that the master planner applicant has responded that they expect to meet with all sorts of public groups.

3. Ethics commission requirements

- Committee members have completed or are in the process of submitting the necessary documentation to the clerk. Cheryl confirmed that these can be signed electronically and sent back to the clerk via email.

4. Working groups

- *Compost survey:* Devon raised questions about adding additional demographic data, but Cheryl remarked that the scope of the survey is not intended to define those items, and there is a need to get some/any data out currently. Rich mentioned a previous proposal for a composting project led by the town was prevented by an undescribed objection raised by the town Board of Health. However, there is a plan that envisioned a regional approach, where Eastham can be a composting site for multiple towns. Cheryl confirmed that Ellen had reported that Silvio at the Department of Public Works is aware of the survey.
- *Select board presentation:* Cheryl mentioned a tentative date of February 7 for presentation. Roy expressed that the point of draft was to capture the essence of the committee's work for the last 7 months, and the draft was organized in a spirit similar to T-Time, by adding guiding principles.

5. Outer Cape collaborative update

- Roberta shared that a Truro committee member is talking with electric vehicle charging companies about a program that interacts with hotel and motel owners in the town to put charging stations in their places of business, and reflected that this may turn it into a multi-town project.
- Roberta clarified that Orleans is going to be installing electric vehicle chargers, and raised the notion that there might be some interest in cooperating on a maintenance contract across multiple towns. Rich confirmed that the nature of the charging station and maintenance contracts was a work in progress, with the goal being for each charging station to be connected to a wireless network to gather information. Rich will be coordinating with town staff to complete this process.

6. Additional items

- Cheryl confirmed that the annual Town report is ready and will be submitted shortly.
- Cheryl requested access to being able to host future meetings. Rich noted that some committee chairs already have this access, and that the town applications manager will be evaluating how Zoom is structured and will likely add some enhanced features to these virtual meetings, including training and support. Gaining access to future meetings is in the works.

Votes

None

Next meeting

February 14, 2022 at 5:00pm EST