

Climate Action Committee Meeting

2/13/23 (Zoom)

In Attendance

Members: Roberta Longley, Mike Sarcione, Cheryl Gale, Roy Merolli, Ellen Greer, Olav Hegland, Tom McNellis

Guests: Shana Brogan, Bailey Nobili, Marian Brunck, Gary Senecal, John Boiney

Administrative Matters:

- New Conflict of Interest online training program must be completed within next 30 days by all CAC members.

Public Comments:

- Gary Senecal reported on activities from Recycling Committee: Wellfleet participates in program where food waste is dropped at Transfer Station and sent to Dennis Transfer where it is picked up by Watts Family Farm who composts food waste and sells it for a profit. Recycling committee also researching curbside pickup for Eastham. Subcommittee for composting also looking at solutions.

Minutes from January meeting approved

Staff update:

- Shana Brogan contacted State Municipal Vulnerability and Preparedness Program (MVP) in January regarding whether Eastham can apply for funds for Climate Action Plan. MVP recommended that town revise and update our initial MVP Plan (2019), for which the town has guaranteed funding, including \$50k to implement one of the recommendations in the plan, recommendations (complete list on town website) include schedule for tree trimming and low-lying roads program.
- Updates about when revised plan is open for comments will be provided as it becomes available.

Potential additions to CAC website

- Tom McNellis recommended structure based on Recycling Committee page, including: committee charge, committee members, contact link (email address), meeting minutes, as well as town and state resource links (info on solar, battery, efficiency, incentives, electric vehicles, etc).
- Proposal that committee clerk will read email and distribute questions/comments to appropriate committee member.
- Discussion of creating quarterly newsletter.
- Committee approved Tom approaching Town Administrator for approval of webpage and email link.

Proposed Events

- Consideration of 45-minute presentation by Judd Stailey, climatologist and meteorologist from the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services (OFCM) on 4/20 at library,

followed by 30-minute Q&A with panel of local experts to discuss local consequences of climate change. Organized by Ellen Greer, Cheryl Gayle, and Tom McNellis.

- Consider inviting NRHS Green Club to event to attract teens and their families. Bailey will follow up.
- Concern that event will happen during school spring break, attendance may be low. Consider including Climate Change Collaborative for additional promotion and to increase attendance.
- Further details to be discussed at March meeting.

Nauset Green Club

- Bailey Nobili reported on NRHS Green Club initiatives: (1) prior to COVID all single-use plastic utensils were replaced with donated silverware. School is now back to plastic since no safe way to clean silverware while NRHS is under construction (2) waste stations at cafeteria staffed by Green Club and Honors Club to separate compost, recycling, waste; compost used at NRHS garden. This initiative was cancelled since the construction site has replaced the garden. (3) Created Green Threads to promote sustainable fashion. Donations from students sold at school and Orleans farmer's market.
- Green Club attended Youth Climate Summit in Sandwich. Plan to attend again in early May.
- Green Club (approximately 35-40 members) wants to move beyond NRHS and work in the community, especially School Committee and Climate Action Committee
- Consider adding Green Club representative to CAC membership.

Update from Composting Subcommittee

- Committee had initial meeting and discussed strategies for communication plan about the scope and urgency of the problem of food waste as it relates to climate change. Reducing food waste is a key strategy to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, and key to keeping global warming levels at or below 1.5°C to 2.0°C, the targets set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The composting group is working on community education event. More details to follow pending a mid-March composting group meeting (date TBD).

Update on conversation with Steve Tupper from Cape Cod Commission

- CCC considering how to assist the town through CC Climate Action Plan and how to apply at the local level.
- CAC members will provide Tom feedback on strategies for follow-up at March meeting.

Update on the Specialized Stretch Code

- Eastham CAC is collaborating with the other Outer Cape towns to exchange ideas and to provide education, solicit feedback on the specialized code. A builder's webinar hosted by MassSave is to be held on March 7, 2023 – to educate them on the changes to the stretch code (in effect as of 1/1/2023) and the opt-in specialized code.

Scheduled next meeting: **March 13, 2023** @ 5pm Town Hall In-person/Remote participation.

Respectfully submitted: Olav Hegland