

**Outer Cape Climate and Energy Committees  
Minutes of the Meeting of March 1, 2022  
Remote Participation  
4:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Wellfleet: Richard Elkin, Lilli-Ann Green, Carol Magenau and Suzanne Ryan;  
Truro: Bob Higgins-Steele, Jim Nash; Eastham: Terry Gallagher, Ellen Greer, Michael Greer, Roy Merolli; Orleans: Susan Chandler, Martin Culik; Provincetown: Tom Jung – others who did not identify their towns, Charlie Sullivan, Timothy Famulare, Cam Blair, Thomas Lyons

**Guests:** Senator Julian Cyr, and Ashley Benson from the Senator’s office

**Facilitator:** Susan Chandler called the meeting together at 4:35.

**BUSINESS**

Dick Elkin explained how to use the remote participation. No notetaker was assigned but Lilli-Ann agreed to take notes since Wellfleet had a quorum. Susan agreed at the end of the meeting to take minutes for the whole group.

**Senator Julian Cyr:** Senator Cyr gave an overview of the legislation he is working on at the state level. He explained that MA. was a leader in climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies. He talked about the growth of off shore wind initiatives and how that will be a big help to the state. He noted the huge problems already here. The cape loses 37 acres a year to sea level change; there is a huge problem with salt water leeching into the fresh water aquifers; the low lying flood areas all over the Cape and the need for both Blue and Green Community actions. He mentioned the most recent UN report and the crucial need to reduce carbon emission and get to net zero by 2050. There are many milestones along the way.

He explained that the big polluters are our transportation sector, followed by our homes. There is also a huge need to deal with our waste water systems and also build affordable housing. Under “Blue” initiatives there are efforts to reduce the ocean acidification and other waterways pollutants. S.B. 1863 seems to be the most likely bill to pass. He also talked a lot about the need for affordable housing on the Cape and perhaps our committee could work together to support the passage of the new, base Stretch Code rules as well as a municipal op- in code. These rules would be to require builders of new homes and offices to be more energy efficient by changing existing building codes and requiring more efficient construction materials. It also will support the installation of solar panels whenever possible and install cable lines in new structures to make them ready for heat pumps and appliances that don’t use fossil fuel. Towns that opt into the stronger stretch code will be available for additional grant money. There may need to be some adjustment to the Historical District approach to solar on roof tops.

He then answered questions posed to him prior to the meeting and others that arose. He stated he was willing to meet with the group again in the future. The topics included the Blue Communities, the Green Communities act, the stretch code, solar projects, historic districts and solar, off shore wind, housing, climate change, waste water, the price of electricity and the transition to all electric and the energy grid. There was a concern expressed about the recent, sharp increase in electric bills. He told the group about LIHEP which is a federal program that

subsidizes low income families' electric bills. It stands for Low Income Heating and Electric Program (Maybe?) He also mentioned Cape Light Compact and their wonderful programs. He also mentioned that perhaps our group would be interested in pooling our resources and hiring a shared energy coordinator.

Someone asked about the new Infrastructure bill and how much money would be coming to the Cape and for what. It seems there is a lot of money, but it unclear who will get it.

**Do we want to work on the Outer Cape Energize project at this time?:** Elkin gave an short overview of his meeting with Am HaYam. It was an online Zoom meeting and the group was interested to discuss this further. They want to include other churches and other religious groups. Dick is planning on 2-3 outreach workshops.

**Suzanne: update on grants:** She had a conversation about electrifying the Nauset school buses. They are not ready to move in this direction yet but they will keep us informed when there is further information.

**April agenda: CCCC discussion on how to conduct outreach/reaching residents and businesses regarding climate change:** It was decided to reach out to the 5Cs and invite them to the next meeting. (Later we learned that they are putting on a webinar on Friday March 18 12:00-1:30. Carol sent out the flier.

**Open discussion: request for information or ideas on climate and energy action:** Suzanne talked about the stretch code and Bob Higgins-Steele gave an overview of the status of the new stretch code. Bob Higgins-Steele said he would follow up with emails to the group about the stretch code. He sent out a webinar link.

**Motion:** Green moved to adjourn the meeting. Chandler seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan M. Chandler, Facilitator