

The Town of Eastham
Climate Action Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2023
Town Hall, 5:00 pm

Members Present: Roberta Longley (chair), Tom McNellis, Cheryl Gayle, Ellen Greer, Olav Hegland, Roy Merolli (remote), Mike Sarcione (remote)

Guests: John Boiney, Marion Brunck, Gary Senecal (Recycling Committee liaison), Shana Brogan (remote)

Administrative Matters: Reminder for all members to complete Conflict of Interest Training.

Minutes: March Minutes unanimously approved with correction of Cheryl Gayle, who was remote.

Staff Update:

- DLTA grant will be funded through a regional initiative and will be in touch in the next few weeks with confirmation of the approval.
- Shana reported on the Low Lying Roads presentation to mitigate flooding and other storm events. Waiting for final plans about feasible options by the end of June. Rank order of roads needing attention, prioritizing for Governor Prence, Herring Brook Road, Bridge Road, Dyer Prence, and Sunken Meadow Roads.
- Design firm presented updated designs for T-Time project at Select Board's March meeting.
- Shana reported on the Strategic Plan process.

CAC Spring Public Events

- April 6, 2023: Michal Johnson, founder of South Bronx Unite, recently attended the Climate Conference in Cairo. Delivered lecture tailored to environmental issues pertinent to Cape Cod.
- April 20, 2023: Final details discussed for event at library with Jud Stailey, former climatologist and meteorologist.
- May 6, 2023 Town Meeting: Warrant to eliminate plastics in food takeout materials – Finance Committee recommended outreach to businesses in Eastham and Chamber of Commerce prior to Town Meeting.
- May 18, 2023: Lor Holmes, founder of CERO Cooperative – startup for compost collection system, green collar jobs, collection of food waste from institutions.

Solar Working Group

Committee unanimously approved the formation of a working group to address solar issues. The committee approved the following members for the solar working group: Tom McNellis, Mike Sarcione, Roy Merolli from the CAC, Gary Senecal from the Recycling Committee, and John Boiney, an Eastham resident. Discussed adding one or two members from the NRHS Green Club Green Club. Mike has created a flow chart for homeowners to determine feasibility of solar power and solar opportunities, including powering heat pumps and EVs. Working group will also look at outreach to businesses and town buildings. Goal of providing interactive public presentation in the fall.

Potential Future Events: (Goal of 3 events in fall 2023):

1. Solar Event
2. Energy Efficiency in Buildings – possibly sponsor specialized code article on town meeting – event will educate community about the article as well as opportunities in energy efficiency, electrification, and renewables in both residential and commercial buildings.
3. Mike is working on white paper and proposes a workshop/session on transportation: electric bikes, electrified buses, and shuttles, charging stations, and soliciting food trucks at the beaches.

Youth Outreach/Liaison

Cheryl proposed adding NRHS Green Club member as permanent voting member but may be conflict with number of voting members on CAC. Suggestion to add non-voting member. Suggested letter to faculty advisor. Bailey graduating so there may be new president of NRHS Green Club next year. NRHS Green Club will assist elementary school with starting a compost program.

COA Outreach

Tom met with director of COA Dorothy Burritt, looking to plan meeting to discuss how groups can work together. Cheryl will go to COA to continue the discussion including holding public meetings at COA.

Climate Action Plan

Need to get greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in place.

Discussed reviewing Martha's Vineyard's and the Town of Lincoln Climate Action plans for ideas on crafting Eastham's climate action plan and GHG inventories.

CAC page on town website

Town staffer Kayla Urguhart updated and added links with goals, guidelines, etc – may need some tweaks. Plan to set up a link to YouTube channel to access CAC event videos.

Specialized Building Code

Plan to do public info session on why efficient buildings matter to the community, etc.

Recycling Committee chair stepping down and will have election for new chair.

Agenda Item for next meeting:

- Idea to create a focus group to gauge citizen interest in climate change issues and see how they get their news etc.
- Revisit CAC goals
- Plan to present to the Select Board in the next few months
- Discuss how to improve Cape-wide communications

Meeting Adjourned 6:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Olav Hegland.