

## **Minutes**

The Town of Eastham Climate Action Committee (CAC) Meeting

May 8, 2023

5:00 pm

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

**Guests:** John Boiney, Gary Senecal, (recycling committee liaison), Jerry Cerasale (CAC select board liaison)

### **Administrative Matters:**

- Town Elections on May 15, 2023 – can we put the CAC banner up for the event. Ellen will arrange to put it up on Monday and take it out on Tuesday after the election event.
- Ethics training: We have not received notification of non-compliance from the town.

**Public Comments:** none

**Minutes:** The April minutes were accepted as written.

### **Staff Update:**

- No staff member present in today's meeting. Shana Brogan will attempt to participate via zoom in every other CAC meeting going forward. Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC) is again preparing an RVP for solar that the town can participate in along with several other Cape towns. A previous proposal from two years ago was retracted and this represents restarting this initiative.
- Consider recommending that the town upgrade the landscaping machinery.
- One Cape Summit is held on 7/31-8/1 and is sponsored by the Cape Cod Commission.

### **Discussion:**

#### **Eastham transportation options**

- Mike is looking for CAC feedback on the proposed options in the white paper before we make recommendations to the SB.
- One concept is to minimize the need for private vehicles for beach transportation, including remote parking and shuttle service – like the National Seashore program at Coast Guard Beach, but with predetermined town routes for pick-up. One suggestion is to use the electrified school buses for summer shuttle service.
  - Other suggestions include providing beach equipment and food options alleviating the need for vehicles and enabling alternative transportation options, such as bicycles and shuttle service.
- Other options are to make Eastham more walkable and bikeable.
- Town revenue from the sale of beach stickers may be adversely affected and should be considered when making recommendations to the SB.
- The next step with this is to prioritize the recommendations in the white paper.

**Review 2023 CAC goals:**

- Developing awareness of net zero energy standards in the community:
  - Specialized code (passed in Wellfleet and Truro). We should consider working with other towns, such as Orleans, to emphasize why electrification, energy efficiency and renewable energy are important pillars in the net-zero discussion. Consider inviting CLC to provide info on incentives available to residents.
  - Stakeholder input was discussed as a prerequisite for moving forward with the opt-in specialized code adoption. This would involve getting Jacqui and the select board to support this. Input from the business community would be an important first step. Need to have the article written by the end of January 2023 to make it into the warrant for the 2024 town meeting.

**Select Board presentation on June 5 at 5:30 PM.**

- Meeting packets are usually available to the SB 3-4 days prior to the meeting. -
- Draft agenda:
  - Major accomplishments and challenges and articulate areas where we need support from the SB.
  - Present status of CAC goals
  - Youth and COA outreach
  - YouTube channel, composting, solar, transportation initiatives
- Jerry offered to review a draft of the presentation before it goes to the full SB. - Discussed raising the awareness around energy efficiency and electrification in the community – including taking advantage of incentive programs offered by CLC via Mass Save.

**Other Business and Reports:****Compost working group:**

- The town is starting a food composting program with Black Earth at the transfer. Residents can drop off their food waste in a designated area.
- Black Earth pick-up program is a short-term solution for composting with other options being considered as the town is developing a wastewater treatment plant at the transfer station. - List of acceptable items is being prepared and will be posted at the transfer station. - A presentation by Lor Holmes on composting will be held at the library on May 18, 2023. - A home composting workshop is being held at the Eastham Library on June 15, 2023, from 5-6:30 PM.

**Solar working group:**

- The working group has held two meetings to date.
- Solar adoption remains low in MA – possibly due to solar being excluded from the Mass Save and CLC programs.
- The Eastham adoption rate for 2021 (the most up-to-date information) is only 8.4% among residents and is below the state average.

- Eastham needs to double its adoption rate to be on track to meet the state's 2050 net zero goal. - The working group should consider gathering data on adoption rates across Cape Cod towns. - There are federal and state incentives available to offset the cost of solar. Other options include community solar plant.
- Adding a multi-year goal: bring the stakeholders together to develop a solar action plan, as part of the climate action plan or as an independent initiative. The first step is to develop a framework for solar adoption - with input from residents, businesses, and the town. - The group is working on a solar workshop event in the Fall of 2023.
- Workforce development is also included in the planning process.
- The solar group's revised goals were approved by the committee, which recommended including equity considerations in the solar program initiative.

**Youth outreach/COA outreach:** The CAC had engaged with the NRHS on student involvement – but it has been challenging to have consistency with students (athletics, graduation, etc.). A new approach involves faculty members to move this process forward.

**Specialized building code:** Will postpone action on this until the Fall of 2023.

**Strategic plan/climate action plan:**

- The draft plan will be presented to the CAC first before presenting to the select board. - Approval from the Cape Cod Commission to establish a GHG inventory for Eastham. - Once the strategy has been adopted – action on the plan is next.

**Host 6 public events in 2023:**

- Events are on track and includes a composting workshop on June 15, 2023, hosted by the composting working group – a collaborative effort between the CAC and the Recycling committee.
- Upcoming events include May 18, 2023, Composting with Lor Holmes

**Climate adaptation:** Consider involving the CAC in climate adaptation discussions. Discussed including adaptation in the forthcoming climate action plan.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 PM**

Respectfully submitted by Olav Hegland