

Eastham Climate Action Committee Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2023

Members Present: Roberta Longley (Chair), Cheryl Gayle, Tom McNellis, John Boiney, Roy Merolli

Members Absent: Olav Hegland, Mike Sarcione

Guests: Gary Senecal (Recycling Comm. liaison), Jack Hadley, Mary Nicolini

Administrative Matters:

Per Roberta, the Town Administrator is pleased that Mike Sarcoine has expressed interest in being the Eastham town representative to the Cape and Vineyard Electric Collaborative (CVEC). Need to follow up with her on next steps for the official appointment.

Public Comments:

- Jack Hadley stated that he is pleased to be participating in CAC's solar working group.
- Gary Senecal provided an update on the Recycling Committee's activities. Gary has arranged for both of our committees and the Cape Light Compact to be located together under the municipal tent for the Saturday of Windmill Weekend. The Recycling Committee continues to work with the Department of Public Works regarding the concern for the very high amount of solid waste that is at the landfill. The Committee is assisting with public outreach on composting and associated matters. The Recycling Committee's Chair is working with Care for the Cape and Islands as they recently were awarded funding to address the problem of single-use plastics used in tourism-based food and hospitality businesses.

Minutes: Roy moved to accept the minutes with a 2nd from John. Approved unanimously, 5-0.

Staff update: Roberta read the following written update from Shana Brogan as she was unable to attend this meeting:

- “• I wasn't able to get an update from Rich on the status of the solar and green communities update. As soon as I see him I will get an update and let you know where they stand.
- The strategic planning committee should be meeting soon (Sept/Oct) to begin updating the plan. They aim to be done with the update by Town Meeting 2024. They will meet with a different group monthly (open space, housing, etc.) We will provide them with the Climate Action Committee's goals to review, if you have an updated copy, please do send it along to me!
- Town Center Plaza/T-Time designs are still not actively being reviewed at this time. Paul Lagg is working with a consultant on "form based code" which will be a set of zoning bylaws that you will vote on at town meeting that states what types of buildings go where, and what they look like and are used for, along the Route 6 corridor.
- We are still working on getting architectural services for the Beach Plum motor lodge property to get some housing units developed there, but that likely won't go out for an architect until the fall. The budget is small, but if there are any design elements you'd like to have considered for efficiency, please let me know.
- We have received grant funding for studying Mary Chase marsh and restoring tidal flow

(the marsh over by the road to Fort Hill, you pass over a portion of it on Rt. 6 that is mostly phragmites). While not directly related to your climate goals, they do sequester carbon.”

Discussion:

- **CAC recommendations for the revised Eastham Strategic Plan:** Tom, Roberta and Roy presented draft #5B for discussion and vote. Roberta will follow up with Jacqui on the next steps on how these recommendations get submitted. Cheryl moved that these recommendations be approved with a 2nd from Tom; a unanimous vote of 5-0 approved.
- **North Eastham Village Center:** Discussion carried over from the previous meeting regarding how this committee could get an update on the status of this project. It appears that there are some important matters such as water and road access that need to be addressed before the project's specifics can move forward. Roberta mentioned she'd revisit the topic with the Town Administrator and also with Karen Strauss, who has been the Chairperson of the T-Time Committee.
- **Solar Working Group:** Roberta reported that Mike agreed to postpone the review/discussion of the revised Solar Homeowner Guide until the September meeting as he was unable to attend today. Discussion focused on three different approaches to solar: residential, municipal, and business.

There was a unanimous vote of approval for the proposed Eastham solar workshop and house tour. It will be held on Saturday, October 28th at the Eastham Library. Tom will work with Corey from the library to finalize the reviewed draft flier. Tom also met with Debbie Abbott and Terry Gallagher from the Friends of the Eastham Library regarding this event. Various outreach efforts were identified. Another intent is to engage additional residents (besides CAC) to volunteer at this event.

Tom shared that Rich Bienvenue, Asst. Town Administrator/Finance Director, reported that the Town will be looking to expand solar at the Transfer Station and Police Department/Town Hall. Moving forward, Rich is hoping to identify additional locations.

Gary stated that there are 330 businesses in town, but it is difficult to determine who owns the actual property. Does the business own or rent? This is important as discussion moves forward regarding solar for businesses. Gary believes the Town's Conservation Department should be able to provide statistics on how many businesses have solar.

- **Opt-In Specialized Building Code:** Discussion regarding what steps might be needed to place an article on the 2024 Town meeting warrant for Eastham to adopt the new code. Acknowledged that Truro and Wellfleet have passed the specialized code at their spring 2023 town meetings. The Orleans Select Board has agreed to sponsor the article and it will be placed on Orleans's October 2023 town meeting warrant. The Orleans Climate Action Network is holding a workshop titled "Home Energy Choices and The Opt-In Specialized Energy Code" on Tuesday, 8/22 @ 4pm at the Snow Library. Committee members were encouraged to attend. This same group will hold additional public outreach programs at the Snow Library this fall.

- **Decarbonize Cape Cod campaign:** This group, representing individual town climate action networks throughout the Cape, is looking for an Eastham representative to participate in planning/identifying grassroots outreach efforts with the hope of reaching a broader audience with the decarbonization message. Roberta will further explore what the expectations of Eastham's participation would include.

- **CAC events:**

- * Recap of COA Friday 7/14 event: Tom provided an update on this event at the COA. It appeared to be a success with Tom/Mike having a follow up meeting with one participant to provide individual technical assistance with solar options. A follow-up email will be sent to those who provided their email addresses.

- * COA Seaside Cafe: CAC will be participating in the COA Seaside Cafe on the last Monday of the month. Residents stop by for coffee and conversation. Committee members will be available to have individual or group chats with folks about climate change/recycling/ etc. CAC will also have an opportunity for a small space in the COA bimonthly newsletter to share helpful information/updates.

- * WindmillWeekend/Saturday, Sept.9th: Roberta, Tom, and Mike are coordinating this event. Cheryl will help set up and be there until 11 am. John and Jack will be available to help in the afternoon.

- *Fall solar workshop: Saturday, October 28th. Refer to notes under the solar working group.

Other Business and Reports

- It was announced that there is an EV event being held this Tuesday, August 15th at the BMW location in Hyannis. There will be several different models of vehicles available for viewing.

- OneCape Summit Recap: This regional forum, sponsored annually by the Cape Cod Commission, was held on July 30 and 31. Tom and Gary both attended and said it was excellent. This year's theme focused on Climate Change and Housing. Tom provided an overview and it appears that a recording of the session was made available.

Scheduled next meeting: September 11, 2023 @ 5pm at Town Hall, In-person/remote participation.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Cheryl Gayle, Clerk.