

## **Climate Action Committee Minutes**

**September 12, 2022 / 5:00 PM /SM. CONFERENCE ROOM Eastham Town Hall**

### **Attendees:**

Present: Roberta Longley, Ellen Greer, Cheryl Gayle, and Mike Sarcione

Absent: Roy Merolli

Visitors: In person: Eastham Select Board liaison Jerry Cerasale, Brian Lavalle, Gary Senecal (Recycling Committee), Tom McNellis. By Zoom: Marian B.

**Administrative matters:** Roberta stated that we have a total of seven members possible on this committee. It looks like very soon we will have a sixth, and that is Tom McNellis. Tom has gone through all of the paperwork and taken the conflict of interest exam. Now we are awaiting final approval of his appointment by the Select Board.

**Public Comments:** Marian stated that she is particularly interested in waste in Eastham. The dump seems to be so active, but what happens to all the plastic, where does it go? Interested in what the town is doing around climate change.

**Minutes:** August minutes unanimously approved.

**Staff update:** Roberta will continue to reach out to Rich Bienvenue for a full update on what's going on with the town and a couple of the projects relating to Eastham's acceptance as a Green Community, electric school buses, and composting at the transfer station.

### **Upcoming CAC sponsored presentations, Eastham Library:**

Corey at the library has been kind enough to produce promotional material for the three upcoming events and will include the information on the library's Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tik Tok. He'll also reach out to Laura at Cape TV. All three events are on the library events page. Flyers are going to go in the library and potentially the Post Office and Eastham Visitor's Center. Need to add to the town website, Community Space Facebook page and the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative newsletter, Provincetown Independent, Cape Codder, Wicked Local and WOMR radio, Chamber of Commerce website, Methodist Church. The agenda for third event to be worked on by Roberta and Tom.

Rich Delaney of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative will be talking about the planet's health and yours, facing the invisible impacts of climate change including economic, environmental justice, physical health, mental health, and ecosystems.

Regarding the format for Meet Your Town's Climate Action Committee, we discussed having CAC members speak on their personal interests and passion about climate change. We'll include short presentations on solar, energy storage systems, electric vehicles, etc. and leave time to answer people's questions after each speaker. All presentations will be available on Zoom, accessed on the town website.

**Goal Setting Workshop:** Willow Shire will be facilitating the workshop tentatively on Thursday October 20, 9 am -noon. The meeting will be available on Zoom.

### **Windmill Weekend Recap:**

Many folks were asking for references for solar batteries and panels. Mike will put together a list of companies and references for folks to have should they like to pursue further.

Forty-four people signed up for more info, providing their email contacts. We discussed doing white papers on various topics and making them available on the website.

It was nice being next to the Cape Light Compact table. Lots of synergy between us.

Thanks to Cheryl for organizing our effort at the weekend, Mike for the banner and spending the entire day there with his electric vehicle.

We discussed other locations for displaying the banner, e.g. Town Hall during voting (talk with Cindy Nicholson) and outside the library during our programs there.

Folks appear to be very interested in climate change and what they can do. What can we do for advocacy around climate change action?

Discussed a project with the Scouts about how they may be engaged in climate change and how we can reach more of the younger age groups. Windmill Weekend was really all about the "adults". One topic was would it be possible for the Scouts (Tom McNellis has a contact) to make and deploy (opportunity to earn environmental badges) high tide markers at the beaches similar to what the Audubon at Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary does.

### **Master Planning Process (North Eastham Village Project):**

The consultants are holding their last workshop at the library the evening of Wednesday, October 12 and it would be nice if one or two of us could attend. Roberta believes that it will be a summary of their findings to date and we would like our opportunity to comment on it when appropriate.

**Outer Cape Climate and Energy Committee:** There has been a multi-town group that for awhile was meeting once a month. It has included representatives from Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, Provincetown and Truro town climate committees. Good information flow and awareness of what each town is doing. The meetings will now be quarterly and we feel that it's still really useful to connect with other towns regarding what we're all doing. Roberta attended the October 6 zoom meeting and reported to us that Martin Culik from the Orleans climate committee is talking to the Cape Light Compact regarding the possibility of establishing a certification program that's similar to the Master Gardener concept, but specific to climate change. He will soon present his idea to the Cape Light Compact Commissioners. Mike indicated an interest in the certification program. Roberta also reported that the Truro Committee is researching and developing a job description for a climate/sustainability coordinator. She understands that some towns, including Falmouth, now have paid staff who will handle all climate issues. We'll keep our eye on Truro and see how what they produce in terms of a job description. Maybe the job could be funded from the Green Community funds?

The Outer Cape group will meet again via Zoom on Tuesday, December 6 at 4:30. Roberta is scheduled to be the facilitator. It would be useful to have another member of our CAC present if possible.

### **Compost Initiative:**

Ellen discussed the composting survey results. To date there have been 178 responses. 93% percent own homes and 6% own rental property, no restaurants responded, so that's a gap that needs to be filled. 70% of the respondents live in Eastham full time. 65% didn't know what percentage of greenhouse gas emissions comes from food waste and trash, thus an education opportunity. 76% have never read the Recycling Committee's newsletter, another outreach opportunity. 45% said that they currently compost their own waste, but 37% throw it in the trash. 57% have no concerns about composting. Nearly 70% said that they would be interested in at-home composting and 60% would participate in a drop-off program. 83% want to know how the program would work before deciding to participate and 57% want to know how much it's going to cost. An additional 80 surveys from Windmill Weekend haven't yet been rolled into the results.

Gary Senecal mentioned that the town has considered hosting a regional composting program, but the location and details aren't worked out yet. So in the near term something at the transfer station may be best. Tom mentioned the need to look at other communities' programs and best practices.

### **Other Business:**

How do we get the kids more engaged on climate change in Eastham? Roberta suggested we put it on the agenda for next meeting. How may we develop or create some programs that you can do with the school kids?

Net Zero Conference (via Zoom) coordinated by the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative is scheduled for Friday, October 28. Past conferences have offered important information on federal, state, regional, and local activities with some top notch speakers.

**Next Meeting: Monday Oct 17, 5 pm** in the Eastham Town Hall, small conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.