

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee

Friday, April 2, 2021 at 11:30 am

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Attendance: Richard Toole, Marilyn Miller, Si Shapiro, Peter Meleney

Absent: Bill Cleary, Gino Mazzaferro, Craig Saunders

Invited Guest: Elisabeth Peterman, OB Conservation/Environmental Planner

Topic 1: Approval of minutes of March 12, 2021 meeting.

With minor changes to those minutes to clarify Lis's role with the town Coastal Resilience Committee, Bill's offer to attend their meetings and that we would like Lis to attend our meetings, the minutes were approved as amended. (All in favor)

Topic 2: Discuss progress of Green Community Designation and public outreach.

With the town meeting now scheduled for 5/15/21, Marilyn reported that she and Bill have been talking about handing out the fact sheet and a short presentation at the meeting about the benefits. Under discussion, after Bill returns from his current vacation, are meetings with FinCom, Capital Program Committee and the builders association.

As for energy audits, Marilyn said that Rise Engineering is expected to come on April 19th to begin installation of the NO-cost/LOW-cost Lighting Upgrades.

Marilyn also reported that there was a meeting last week at the library to discuss the HVAC control system problem there. The library director, Allyson Malik, Richie Combra, Ray Moreis, the facilities coordinator, Craig Saunders and Marilyn. She has written up a report on this meeting and she said she thinks the parties agree on finding comprehensive solutions to the HVAC issues.

There was a Planning Board hearing on 3/25/21 about the siting of large solar systems, but no one knew the outcome. Richard is going to check.

Topic 3: Continued discussion of roles and priorities and list of town energy improvements to make more resilient to changing climate.

Richard stressed our need as a committee to get on top of this subject and for each of us to get hold of a copy and study the MVC Oak Bluffs Climate Handbook that has much of the needed information. Hard copies are available from MVC. He said it is important for us to figure out how to reduce our carbon footprint. He also noted that OB is the only town that doesn't have the 100% renewable goal as a warrant item for the spring town meeting, but with the good reason that we decided to concentrate on the articles we need passage on for the Green Community designation.

Topic 4: Continue to discuss establishing our committee page and info. on the town website.

Richard said that we need to get help from Wendy Brough navigating the web page on the town website.

Topic 5: Help familiarize Lis Peterman with Oak Bluffs issues.

This is a "two-way street" topic in that we as a committee think we need to explore in order for us all to understand what Lis is and is not responsible for. Peter mentioned, for example, the lack of fencing to prevent people walking all over the dune and around the osprey pole at Jetty Beach. Lis said she would check on this. The committee members expressed a wish to have lunch with Lis when she comes to OB in the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter I. Meleney