

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee

Friday, April 23, 2021 at 3 pm

Via Zoom

MINUTES

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

Absent: Gino Mazzaferro, Craig Saunders

Invited Guest: Elisabeth Peterman, OB Conservation/Environmental Planner

Topic 1: Call meeting to order

Richard called the meeting to order at 3:06 pm.

Topic 2: Approval of the minutes of the April 2, 2021 meeting.

Approved as previously amended.

Topic 3: Discuss progress of Green Community Designation and public outreach and Annual Town Meeting

Bill outlined all the things he is doing to prepare for the Town Meeting on 5/15 including a five-minute PowerPoint presentation, printing up the fact sheet for handout at the meeting, doing public outreach on the Stretch Code (including a planned joint Edgartown & Oak Bluffs zoom info. Session, with experts, on May 11), meeting with various town committees beforehand and preparing articles for the Vineyard Gazette and MV Times. He also said the Energy Reduction Plan is in good shape thanks to the work of Marilyn and Craig with Margaret Song. He added that he has the wording now on the vehicle policies that need to be signed off on by the Town Select Board and the School Superintendent.

Richard reported that at a recent meeting, Eversource revealed that they were starting the permitting procedures for a 5th cable to MV and they were giving up on the idea for a battery storage facility here.

Topic 4: Continued discussion of roles and priorities and list of town energy improvements to make more resilient to changing climate, review current efforts

Richard brought up the recently held meeting about the library HVAC problems with the library director, Allyson Malik, Richie Combra and Ray Moreis that Craig and Marilyn took part in and Marilyn reported on. He wondered about the comment that Richie made about hiring an engineer to look at

town buildings and how this might tie into the work of this committee. We agreed that we would follow-up with Richie on this after we get past the May 15th ATM and the hoped-for passage of our two Green Community warrant articles.

As for our priority list, Richard thought we ought to rely on the latest Energy Reduction Plan that Margaret Song sent out dated 3/31/21 that Marilyn had sent out to all of us. Marilyn pointed out that the audits that are a part of that plan, but were done more than a year ago and conditions have changed in some buildings. Richard said that CLC incentive criteria will be changing, moving away from Lighting Upgrades to include solar and heat pumps too.

Topic 5: Continue to discuss establishing committee page and info. On Town Website

Richard expressed his frustration in getting answers on how to accomplish this task and asked for help. Marilyn offered to take on the task.

Topic 6: More discussion with Lis Peterman, re. her roles and possible collaboration with our efforts with Oak Bluffs priorities

Lis had communication problems and we were not able to hear her. Richard will ask her for a written report about what she has learned so far.

Topic 7: Discussion of committee leadership and possible new members

Richard said that he is getting a little tired of all the work that is required as the volunteer chair of this committee and he is looking for help and possibly some new members. Bill said that, after we get the Green Community Designation, he would be glad to join. Richard asked for the rest of the committee members to look for other possible committee members.

Topic 8: CLC and CVEC update and interest in serving on those Boards

Richard reported that the solar installation at the elementary school had been put off until summer because of the principal's concern with covid exposure. The resulting cost increase will reduce the payback. He also reported that the landfill solar installation has been delayed by an Eversource grid study that they are asking the towns to pay for. This will reduce the payback to the towns.

Marilyn wondered about the status of the RISE Lighting Upgrade installations, slated to start 4/19. Bill and Marilyn agreed to discuss any follow-up with RISE when we meet to prep for the ATM.

Marilyn said that previously Craig said he was interested in being an alternate to CLC and CVEC.

There being no further business, the committee voted to adjourn at 4:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Meleney