

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee

Friday, May 7, 2021 at 3 pm

Via Zoom

MINUTES

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

Absent: Gino Mazzaferro

Invited Guest: Elisabeth Peterman, OB Conservation/Environmental Planner

Topic 1: Call meeting to order

Richard called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Topic 2: Vote to accept minutes of 4/23/21

The minutes of 4/23/21 were approved as submitted.

Topic 3: Discuss progress of Green Community Designation and public outreach and Annual Town Meeting. Also details about informational meeting with Edgartown to discuss Stretch code.

Bill said that the Stretch code information meeting that he has been working on with Alan Strahler, of the Edgartown Energy Committee is all set for 5/11/21 at 4 pm via Zoom. He is impressed with all the work that has gone into preparation for the meeting and the panelists.

As for the town meeting on Saturday, 5/15/21, Bill said that negotiations are still going on about how much time he will be given to make a presentation. The meeting may be five hours long. He has tried to reach out to all the interested people in town government. Because meeting registration starts at 11 am, Bill asked some committee members to arrive then to help pass out the fact sheet.

Topic 4: Continued discussion of roles and priorities and list of town energy improvements to make more resilient to changing climate, review current efforts. Discuss Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) developed by Craig, Margaret from CLC, Marilyn and Bill.

Marilyn said she thought that the current Energy Reduction Plan (ERP) is in good shape and is a good guide for the future. It is flexible and new issues can be brought up later.

Craig said that he had met with the Water District manager and the District is interested in being included. Craig will check with Margaret about doing an audit later.

Bill said he thought we are in good shape to move forward with the Designation application that is due July 1st, 2021. Assuming positive votes at the Town Meeting, he will then schedule a meeting with the Select Board and the Superintendent of Schools to sign the necessary paperwork.

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

Marilyn said that she has not been able to make any progress because she has not been able to reach Travis, the IT guy. She understands that Travis is doing long-awaited work at the library, so she is hopeful we are in a queue. She will follow up again with Wendy after Town Meeting.

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

Lis said that she has been extremely busy handling permits and the necessary paperwork without any administrative help. There really isn't a job description so she feeling her way along. She hopes that there will be time in the future to talk about climate change issues.

Topic 7: Discussion of committee leadership and possible new members.

Richard said that he plans to meet with Wendy after the Town Meeting to post for new members of our committee.

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

Richard explained why the landfill solar project was delayed. At a recent meeting of VSEC & MVC, Eversource said they were concerned about the current situation and they want to conduct a grid study. He said further that they were abandoning the battery storage idea and seeking permitting for an additional cable. Richard said there is a meeting next week with state authorities to try to hash this out. He doesn't think Eversource is admitting the potential growth in the need for electric power. Richard also mentioned that Erik Peckar (Vineyard Power rep. to CLC) has convened meetings of other MV CLC reps. to address issues particular to MV, apart from those affecting people on the Cape.

Richard added that we need alternate Board members for both CLC and CVEC so that he can eventually retire.

There being no further business, the committee voted to adjourn at 4:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Meleney