

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 9:30 am

Via Zoom

Minutes

Attendance: Richard Toole, Bill Cleary, Marilyn Miller, Craig Saunders

Absent: Gino Mazzaferro, Peter Meleney, Simon Shapiro

Guests: Liz Durkee, MVC Climate Change Planner; Emma Green-Beach, Oak Bluffs Select Board Member

Topic 1: Call meeting to order

Richard called the meeting to order at 9:33 am. We welcomed Liz Durkee and Emma Green-Beach.

Topic 2: Approve minutes for June 4, 2021 and June 18, 2021 meeting.

The minutes for June 4, 2021 and June 18, 2021 meetings were approved as submitted.

Topic 3: CLC and CVEC – seek to appoint Craig Saunders as Oak Bluffs rep or alternate rep to these regional boards.

Craig reached out to Wendy, but got no firm status; Craig will follow up with Alice Butler for follow up to the Select Board to make these appointments – status pending.

Topic 4: REPA / Regional Energy Planning Assistance grants for Net-Zero planning for Oak Bluffs.

Discussion with Liz Durkee, seeking her thoughts on the best project for the REPA Net-Zero grant money for OB to tackle now. Bill proposed a project to change the energy habits of town employees and possibly extend to residents. Short discussion of this, but not fleshed out. Also noted that under “1) Developing a net-zero emissions plan”, “Possible Task #2” is Develop a baseline GHG emissions profile – noted this already done as part of the GC work.

Liz has a comprehensive list of priorities for Oak Bluffs. Attempting to discuss priorities for our Energy Committee, it became clear that many of the items are about Climate and not about Energy.

For some time, our “Climate & Energy Advisory Committee” has thought that the Climate role should be separated out. Though related, the two issues of Climate and Energy need to be addressed separately to assure success in each of these critical areas. Both Liz Durkee and Emma Green-Beach strongly recommend that our Committee request the Select Board establish a separate Climate Resilience and Adaptation Committee, possibly reactivating the Coastal Infrastructure committee to

address natural resources, as well as infrastructure. Perhaps we can work with Emma on this request to the Select Board.

The “Coastal Infrastructure” group was comprised of town staff, including the Assistant Town Administrator, Conservation Agent, Harbor Master, Highway Superintendent and Shellfish Constable. Bill Cleary has volunteered to sit on that newly constituted committee. Additional volunteers are suggested, particularly with subject expertise. Emma and our Committee agreed that Emma’s interest, experience and expertise would enhance BOTH an Energy Committee and a Climate Resilience and Adaptation Committee. We welcome Emma’s ongoing participation in Energy issues.

Liz will look at details of the REPA grant application and documents received from Margaret, while Bill will look at MAPC Playbook. Note: both Oak Bluffs and Edgartown will apply for the REPA grants. Liz noted an overlap between REPA and the Climate Action Plan with Gosnold under energy transformation and the anticipated 5-Year Plans.

Topic 5: Green Communities update – Bill – REPA MOUs (w/CLC; w/MVC); Energy Reduction Plan / ERP final draft from Molly & Margaret; and GC application status;

Bill and Craig will review final draft of ERP from Margaret, possibly request review by Lisa Sullivan (our regional GC rep). When ERP finalized, Bill will schedule meetings for vote on Energy Reduction Plan and Vehicle Policy by Select Board and the School Committee, and get letter from legal counsel on expedited permitting. MOU with MVC to be drafted, signed by MVC and Town (Wendy or Deb). CLC MOU already signed.

Topic 6: Climate & Energy page on Town Website.

Though we don’t have a reply from Travis or Wendy to Marilyn’s 6/15/21 follow-up email, Marilyn found a new entry “Energy Committee” listing under Boards and Committees <https://www.oakbluffsma.gov/178/Energy-Committee>. It appears an old web page was reactivated (it has very OLD information, including past Selectmen Michael Dutton and Ron DiOrio as ex officio members). We still need access to the Energy Committee page and guidance on how to add to or update it. Bill will talk with Wendy or Deb.

Topic 7: INVENTORY / LIST of 13 goals, projects, tasks as of 6/17/21 – brief review of current projects (items #1 Green Communities, #7 REPA/GC, #10 CVEC Round 6) and initial stab at next priorities.

We agreed to periodically review the list, setting priorities as we go.

- **#2 “100% Renewable” for fall Town Meeting** – The group wants to pursue this. The current priority is Green Communities application to the State. Bill suggested we focus on one or two inventory items for each of our upcoming meetings.
- **#3 5-year Town Energy Plan “Town Energy Plan Framework.docx”, from Kate “Components5YearPlan-byTopic.docx” & “WT Climate Goals.pdf”** – Liz Durkee advises that the

5-Year Energy Plan will also be addressed regionally by the MVC, as well as town by town. She will be looking for 1 or 2 members from each town's Energy Committee to sit on an MVC 5-Year Energy Plan subcommittee.

- **#4 Transforming the Island's Energy System (MVC CATF Energy Working Group – PowerPoint presentation to OB Select Board)** – Marilyn suggested approaching the Select Board to schedule this presentation as a prelude to our “100% Renewable” proposal. Richard suggested seeking a slot at a September meeting of the Select Board.

Latest addition:

- **#14 “Power Options” 7/2/21 from Liz Durkee ... the largest energy consortium in New England. They help non-profits and public agencies reduce costs, create long-term strategies and mitigate risks. They work on behalf of member towns and the fee to be a member town is not huge. Perhaps this group could be of help with the Town's Five year energy planning and other energy transformation work.** – Liz, Richard and Bill attended a July 8 overview meeting. Though Power Options works with non-profit organizations, Liz concluded that everything Power Options offers to towns, is already being done by Cape Light Compact / CLC on our behalf. Perhaps we might consider Power Options in the future, if our Energy work extends to the non-profit sector.

Topic 8. Other updates, issues from members –

- Richard – latest on the OB landfill / solar and CVEC – contractor backed out
- Richard – solar at the Oak Bluffs School – materials arrived at the school the week of 7/5/21.

Topic 9. Next meeting – Friday July 30 at 3pm via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Miller (for Peter Meleney)