Meeting of Harwich Utility and Climate Action Committee

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 @3:30 PM

Present: Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz-Greene Member

Charlie Czech Member (by phone)

* It was reported by Valerie that Larry Cole (former chairperson) contacted Barry Worth and he is moving to RI and will not be involved with the committee.
* There were no members of the public who wished to speak.
* Valerie stated that the Board of Selectmen moved their Jan 3 meeting to Jan 10 and, therefore, she will deliver the Committee Report on January 10, 2022. Valerie will summarize the results of the meeting in an email to the committee members.
* The committee believes that we need to foster community awareness of the consequences of Climate Change on our town and things we as a committee can do to educate and inform residents and tourist of what needs to be done and the measures needed to be taken
  + One of the ideas put forth is to have an info meeting in the community center on ‘how to read electric bills’, how to switch companies and the influence the Cape Light Compact has on the electric bills
  + Another idea is to bring children to the library and perhaps obtain the support of Monomoy children who may be interested because of Greta Thunberg for a panel discussion. (after COVID). Invite youngsters to lecture, periodically, at Brooks Library, given that they are more motivated than adults. They will inspire their friends and family to attend.  Valerie will contact teachers at Monomoy she knows to identify possible candidates.
  + It was also suggested that we develop, perhaps in coordination with the Harwich Climate Change Network HCAN) {Each town in the Cape has a network], a panel discussion which would be recorded and replayed on Channel 18
  + We need to develop plans or goals for resilience such as what we do to prepare for raising sea level on Red River Beach. We need to determine what is the cost of resilience regarding parking lots, homes and roads near Nantucket Sound.
* Valerie will attempt to get direction from the Board of Selectmen as to whether we can have a budget for developing EV charging stations, brochures and enactment of zoning to prohibit building or remodeling on structures near beaches and to develop a plan to move existing homes in the areas most vulnerable
* The data the Cape Cod Commission has developed is found on <https://www.capecodcommission.org/our-work/topic/climate> Data on energy use throughout Cape Cod is available so that we can find how much we use and what kind and develop goals for reducing.
* Our next meeting will be in March 3, 2022 at 3:00PM.