Meeting of Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Thursday, July 21, 2022

Present:Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz-Greene Vice-chairperson

Rosanne Shapiro Member

Charlie Czech Member

* There were no people from the public who requested to speak
* Jacqueline agreed to act as vice-chairperson in the event Val is unable to attend a regular meeting.
* The URL for electric charging station grants has been sent to Sean Libby and Julie Kavanagh in the hope that facilities and the Select Board can be familiar with them and apply for them in 2022. https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-massevip-public-acces-charging-ncentives
* We discussed sending the Dick Elkin educational videos to our channel 18 to help educate the public with regard to what we all must do to contribute to reducing the effect of climate change. These videos will help everyone to plan for our future of electric cars and achieving net zero. We all agreed the zoom presentations were well done and provide new information that the public may not be aware of. Rosanne will work out the details and provide an update at our next meeting.
* Cape Light Compact was discussed. It is made up of the fifteen towns and all energy companies working with Mass Save to reduce the energy usage of each and every homeowner and provide green energy for Cape Cod residents. However, energy costs are going up for the next six months because of a 2 cents/kw increase.
* The stretch code was voted on and approved by town meeting three years ago as part of the Green Communities Program. A new and more inclusive stretch code is proposed for July 2024 and input by the public and communities is recommended. One of the significant features of the new proposed stretch code is to provide 220-volt outlets in every garage that could be set up for an electric car charger and 20% of muti-family houses (condos, apts., senior living, etc.) in their garages or parking spaces. Each town would need to vote individually to adapt the more inclusive stretch code.
* Sean Libby should stay on our mailing list. It was reported that Sean hopes to attend our next meeting to discuss where we are on energy reduction for Green Communities. Sean does not think the town has a plan to get the 20% reduction within the five-year period we agreed to. Margaret Song from Cape Light Compact has been keeping track of our savings thus far. Thus far, there are no plans for more electric car charging stations in Harwich. Monomoy School buses are not purchased by the town and no one in the bus company has entertained the idea of looking into electric powered school buses as other towns on Cape Cod & the Islands are considering. Sean was reported to have been asked about hiring an energy administrator to run the green community and oversee energy reduction projects. Sean stated there are other priorities that require staffing that are higher on the list than energy reduction.
* Val did not talk to Megan of Cape and Island Self Reliance about community solar as she is very busy with the new wind turbines off Martha’s Vineyard.
* All committee members have signed for and plan to attend the open meeting training session next week.
* We decided to add ‘new business’ to future agendas
* Next meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2022 @3:00 PM in the small conference room. We will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month instead of the third Thursday.