Meeting of Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Thursday, August 11, 2022

Present:Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz-Greene Vice-chairperson

Rosanne Shapiro Member

Charlie Czech Member

Maria Marasco CVEC (part-time)

Copy: Julie Kavanagh Select Board liaison

* There were no members of the public who requested to speak
* Maria was introduced and discussed the role CVEC ((Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, Inc.) plays in helping Harwich and all of Cape Cod municipalities construct and employ green energy, CVEC is an electric cooperative (and an aggregator) headquartered in South Yarmouth. Maria distributed a sixteen-page handout which describes the role CVEC plays and lists the green energy projects CVEC has been a part of. CVEC was established in 2007 and is also a Massachusetts government entity. It is half government and half corporation. CVEC has built or has under contract 55 MW of solar and wind power with 45 MW installed. Maria presented a list of 46 completed projects, 14 projects which are held up pending a distribution study by Eversource and 5 projects under construction. The Harwich capped landfill solar PV was developed by CVEC and has been in operation since 8/1/14. It produces 3,910,000 kWh annually with a cash value of net metering credits which fluctuates between $0.15 - $.21/kWh. Harwich keeps 61% and distributes the rest to other towns. The revenue share paid in FY 22 is $490,983. The Harwich Cranberry Valley Golf Course Solar PV ground mount and cart barn roof was developed by CVEC on 7/21/21 and generates 618,635 kWh annually with net metering credits.
* Presently Harwich does not have a CVEC representative on its board. This position is voted on by the Select Board and a potential candidate was mentioned. Hopefully that will happen in the near future.
* We have been discussing how we can advocate for community solar on the As of Right green community property at 209 Queen Anne Road. Most solar PV projects are now being cancelled or postponed because of increased cost for PV collectors and lack of availability. It appears we need to foster manufacturing facilities in the US as almost 50% are manufactured in China.
* What is the roadmap to solve the supply chain and COVID? It appears rates from power companies will go up to $0.30/kWh to pay for the other 57 projects in que.
* Rosanne has been in contact with Jamie from Channel 18 regarding televising the Dick Elkin videos. They may need to be edited to cut out non-informative info and Rosanne will pursue this with Jamie
* We discussed that Sean Libby is our most important lead in the Town of Harwich Green Communities program. We need to make it convenient for Sean to come to our next meeting to discuss where we can ask him to explain how close we are to achieving our 20% energy reduction over the 5 years of the program. Also, we need to find out the plans that are in place to upgrade or replace or insulate to meet the goal. Margaret Song (Cape Light Compact) has been generating a lot of the data regarding existing energy saving projects. Valerie will get this information from Margaret Song.
* Next meeting is planned for Thursday, Sept. 8 at 3:00 PM in the Small Meeting Room. However, if this is not convenient with Sean, we can arrange our meeting around his schedule.
* Meeting adjourned @ 4:37 PM, 8/11/22