Meeting of Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committees

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Thursday, June 30, 2022

Present: Valerie Bell Chairperson

 Jacqueline Pentz Greene Member

 Rosanne Shapiro Member

 Charlie Czech Member

 Julie Kavanagh Select Board liaison (part time)

* Rosanne Shapiro has volunteered to help with administrative tasks for the committee
* Jacqueline Pentz Greene will be a vice chairperson
* Val had a meeting with Joe Powers (Town Administrator). He was not aware of any state funding initiatives to get to Net Zero. Val also spoke to Joe about electric car charging stations with regard to municipal grants that may apply. Val will forward URL for electric car charging grants to the committee and Joe Powers. <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-massevip-public-access-charging-incentives> It was noted that we missed the deadline for this year’s grant cycle for charging stations, & Rosanne suggested that we get complete information re: next year’s grant cycle so we can be fully prepared.
* Julie stated the state needs to change the building code before 2035 to provide charging outlets for all single-family homes and provision for car charging individual outlets for all multi-family residences such as apartments, condos, senior living, etc.
* Shawn Libby, facilities manager needs to be contacted to discuss how town is progressing to meet the Green Community energy efficiency goals. If he cannot attend our next meeting, we will need to request that he provide an update as to where we are (via a chart) and where our goal is and the plans (changes in HVAC in community center, insulation, or other means such as electric vehicles) for meeting the goal.
* Val stated the town is maxed out for solar energy. i.e., we cannot add any more solar arrays on town land. Since the town does not want to build anymore solar farms, another option to add solar capacity is for a company to take build the solar farm but residents can benefit with reduced power costs. Megan Amsler of Cape and Island Self Reliance has already set up a system in another part of the Cape.
* When the state looks at towns for grants one of the criteria is an environmental justice zone (based on ethnicity, economic disadvantaged, etc)
* All members of committee will need to sign up for open meeting training on 7/26/22 from 2 to 4 PM or 6 to 8 PM– an email will be sent to all town committee members with specific details.
* All meetings need to be posted on web site. Jamie Goodwin is in charge of posting on web site
* Minutes of previous meeting were approved
* Next meeting is planned for 3rd Thursday. July 21, 2022 @3:00 PM in small conference room. We will be meeting on the third Thursday of each month for consistency’s sake.
* Meeting adjourned at 4:13 PM