Meeting of Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 @3:00 PM

Present: Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz Greene Member

Rosanne Shapiro Member

Charlie Czech Member (by phone)

* Welcome to new member Rosanne Shapiro was extended by the committee
* Valerie started discussion about the steps taken by the Harwich Community Resilience Building Workshop. The link to this workshop is: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/harwich-report/download>. It showed the steps the local government can take to improve
  + Warning systems (for example, tornado in 2019)
  + Actions people can take to protect their own property (for example, cutting limbs or trees that are leaning or close to a residence
  + Looking at code changes for raising property in flood zones on stilts, seawall construction or prohibiting construction along vulnerable coastline
  + Actions to preserve beaches with future higher sea levels (jetties?)
* Valerie will discuss with the town administrator about EV super charging stations and whether the town will support (financially) the purchase and placement of charging stations on beaches, shopping areas or parking in Harwich.
* Are there present town building code regulations in place to restrict construction in vulnerable coastal areas and require existing structures in these areas to be constructed above the height of any hurricane driven surge waves via stilts or seawalls? Is the town considering such changes if they are not now in place?
* We as a committee need to keep these concepts in front of the people of Harwich to invite action on them!
* It was suggested by Rosanne that we consult with Dinah Lane who could interview and record (for Channel 18) Valerie (and others) with a list of questions about coastal resilience and how the people of the town could foster the ideas presented in the workshop.
* Other items for the recorded interview could be the State of Massachusetts Climate Change Initiative and informing the viewers about Cape Light Compact and how their goal of net zero is important to keep reaching for that goal and how we all can help.
* Rosanne brought up that the Cape Cod Commission did not seem to even list Harwich for any actions that they have taken or even be represented on the commission. Does Harwich have representation on this commission?
* Valerie will ask Joe Powers, Harwich Town Administrator about climate and energy goals with regard to our progress as a Green Community and whether we are meeting our goals and are on schedule to meet the 2023 completion?
* CVEC keeps track of energy projects completed by the all the towns on Cape Cod: <https://cvecinc.org/programs-resources/>
* Our next meeting will be probably in May and Valerie will let us know after her meetings. It was suggested by Rosanne that Mondays and Wednesdays are not good.