Meeting of Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Thursday, May 11, 2023

Present: Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz-Greene Vice-chairperson

Charlie Czech Member

Glenn Miemiec Member

Rosanne Shapiro Member

Copy: Julie Kavanagh Select Board Liason

* There were no members of the public who requested to speak.
* Last month’s meeting minutes were approved
* Val may not be able to start new projects as she is working again this summer as a National Park Ranger and Guide.
* Discussion revolved around where we are with our effort to get EV charging stations installed in Harwich. Valerie Bell attended the Dec. 5, 2022 BOS meeting where the selectmen were asked to sign an application from Eversource to evaluate the School House parking lot for EV charging stations. Originally the application indicated that EVKON was the town contact for the project. The selectmen felt it was not appropriate at this time because the town had not officially contracted with EVKON. EVKON was taken off the application and Town of Harwich was substituted. The application was signed and sent to Eversource. Joe Powers called Julie Kavanagh and Val and stated that EVKON would need to be hired as a contractor to provide technical assistance in developing a site plan. Glenn Miemiec will email Julie Kavanagh and make an appointment to find out where we are with this topic. We think the application needs to be revised to add EVKON back in and we may require an RFP approved through Town Meeting.
* Glenn Miemiec spoke with Susan Cline (Town of Dennis) who is working to set up EV charging stations throughout Dennis. Glenn will invite her to our next meeting and ask her to describe how she was able to accomplish this.
* It was noted that the lack of A/C at 204 Sisson Rd was discussed at Town Meeting. Jacqueline will contact Sean Libby to discuss if there might be a future plan to install A/C using energy efficient heat pumps under the Green Communities grant program
* Glen will attend the CVEC on May 25 and see if it will be possible to do a pilot project to give 100 low-income families a heat pump with battery storage. The governor has appointed new regulators who may look more favorably on this project. They want aggregators to develop a three-year plan that show how they are remedying the low-income lack of involvement in the energy reduction programs already put forth.
* Rosanne will be leaving the committee after the June meeting. It is hoped that Patrick Otton who attended all the seminars at COA will be a possible replacement.
* Meeting adjourned at 6:37 PM
* Next meeting will be on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 5:30 PM.