Meeting of Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022

Present: Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz-Greene Vice-chairperson

Charlie Czech Member

Glenn Miemiec New member

Rosanne Shapiro Member

Copy: Julie Kavanagh Select Board liaison

* There were no members of the public who requested to speak
* New member Glenn Miemiec introduced himself to the committee. He brings a broad experience in electric power and distribution, including Eversource, to our committee and will be a positive asset to the committee.
* Meeting minutes of previous meeting were approved
* Rosanne reported that getting through to Jamie Goodwin (channel 18 station manager for Harwich) is very frustrating. We have had no success with our requests for support in showing the Dick Elkin zoom videos discussing electric vehicles and new electricity powered home water tanks and heat pumps. She has been unable to furnish a schedule for the CLC video. It was suggested that we might have to pursue alternate paths to show the video to educate the public, such as:
  + Putting on Harwich website
  + Putting on the library website
  + Taping interviews with members of the committee repeating what Dick Elkin covered in the videos to ensure that the information is available to Harwich residents
* It was suggested that we invite Cyndi Williams, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, to our next meeting to help get grant money to introduce EV charging stations around the town so that visitors and tourists can charge their vehicles while at town beaches, parking lots, motels and supermarkets.
* Valerie brought up the subject of educating the public with regard to their electric power bills especially targeting low-income people. We should expect a 30% to 60% increase in all power bills starting the first of the new year.
* New member Glenn Miemiec has agreed to apply to the town as their CVEC representative.
* The annual report to the Harwich Select Board was discussed:
  + We are now staffed to the five members listed in the charge
  + All minutes and meeting notices have been properly posted on the town website
  + The committee charge was revised last year to include climate action, no further changes to the charge are required
  + We need to strengthen our relationship with key town officials especially someone to drive conversion of the town fleet (green trucks) to electric vehicles
  + Green community energy savings goals will not be met (only about 10% savings from buildings and infrastructure) unless we transition to electric vehicle fleets (green trucks)
* Joe Powers, town administrator was unable to attend our evening meeting. It Was suggested we have our next meetings in the afternoon to hopefully have him attend to discuss EV purchase planning in the town budgets for the forceable future.
* Need to find out more info on the Specialized Building Code which will ban all gas fired furnace and hot water heaters in new construction. Once we find out need to put it in the next town meeting voting (hopefully this spring)
* EEA Jacqueline will forward to committee members information she has
* Future meetings will be in the afternoon. Next two meetings will be on 2nd Tuesday, Nov 10 and 2nd Tuesday, Dec 8 both at 3:00 PM in small conf room. Rosanne will sign up for meetings
* Meeting adjourned 7:50 PM