Meeting of Harwich Energy and Climate Action Committee

Small Meeting Room, Harwich Town Hall

Thursday, December 21, 2023

Present: Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz-Greene Vice-chairperson

Charlie Czech Member

Glenn Miemiec Member

Jack Mee Harwich Building Commissioner

Copy: Don Howell Select Board liaison

* There were no members of the public who requested to speak.
* The minutes from Novembers meeting were approved.
* Jack Mee who was invited to the meeting by the committee and addressed questions pertaining to the states new “stretch” Green Community Building Codes. Jack noted that the state is still struggling with what is being proposed in the new stretch codes. The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) has proposed the new stretch goals but they will now be going out for public comment. This will be taking time and Jack felt that we would not be seeing anything concrete from the state until the end of this year. Jack does believe that we should be adopting these new stretch goals once they are adopted in the new 10th edition building codes.
* Valerie Bell was contacted by Pam Latimire of HCAN who has booked 204 Sisson Road for the upcoming Earth Day which is on April 22. Pam and Val discussed having our committee set up a table for the event, with the committee providing energy information for the people of Harwich.
* Jacqueline Pentz-Greene brought to the table a idea to coordinate a workshop for the upcoming year. This workshop would be similar to one the town of Eastham had on October 28th 2023, which had very good attendance with approximately 80 people attending. The agenda included an overview of solar energy for the consumer, making solar work for you and sizing a solar install resulting in a zero dollar electric bill. Also discussed was how to work with a contractor, financing of solar panels (net metering credits) and how to be an educated consumer. She reached out to Tom McNellis, the head of Eastham Climate Action and he offered that he would be happy to help us.
* Glenn Miemiec provided a brief update on installing a Electric Vehicle Charging Station located at the School House parking lot. He will be meeting with Joe Powers and Chris Andrades of Eversource on January 10th to discuss the project. Valerie Bell noted that Barnstable had created a new town position for someone to specifically address energy issues. Valerie noted that this individual, Sean Hogan, had experience with installing Electric Vehicle Charging Stations and that he would be happy to assist us with our project.
* Valerie Bell noted that Cape Light Compacts new energy rates have been released and they are significantly lower than Eversources.
* Next Meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2024
* Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm