Thursday, November16, 2023

Present: Valerie Bell Chairperson

Jacqueline Pentz-Greene Vice-chairperson

Charlie Czech Member

Glenn Miemiec Member

Barry Margolin Yarmouth Energy Committee

Pam Latimer HCAN

Paul Reety HCAN

Marilyn Reety HCAN

Copy: Donald Howell Select Board Liaison

* The HCAN members were attending to hear Barry Margolin’s presentation
* Meeting started @ 3:00 PM
* Barry Margolin had two excellent handouts on his presentation. Barry is the spark of Decarbonize Cape Cod capecodclimate.org/decarbonize Barry handed out to all committee members a very well-designed brochure describing what we all can do to mitigate “the daily drumbeat of climate disasters”
* Barry’s second fourteen-page power point presentation was developed to explain in easy-to-understand language the opt-in Stretch Code and the newly proposed Specialized Energy Building Code.
* The basic thrust of the Specialized Energy Building Code was for **all** new buildings to be **all** electric (no oil, gas or propane), better windows and for major renovations to existing buildings. This can be adapted by the towns through votes at town meetings. The Specialized Code pushes electrification by requiring new buildings to be designed and wired for all-electric heating and appliances, whether or not they install gas fired appliances, making all-electric buildings more economical to build than mixed-fuel buildings.
* Specialized Code Requirements for new homes:
  + Consume less energy by meeting higher “HERS” (home energy rating system) and either:
    - Produce enough energy solar power to supply all energy needs
    - Use electricity to supply all energy needs, including heating and cooling by high efficiency electric heat pumps
    - Use a mix of gas or oil and electricity, install rooftop solar power, and be pre-wired to all-electric if future owners prefer
  + New homes over 4000 sq. ft. must use zero energy or all-electric path
  + Multi-family buildings over 12000 sq. ft. must meet passive house standards (highest efficiency design to minimize total energy consumption)
* The updated stretch code (with or without Specialized Code adaption) applies in all Green Communities and provides for: quality envelope + air-leakage testing; ventilation energy recovery; and mitigating thermal bridges.
* Barry also discussed his Decarbonize Cape Cod website where he might be able to put a link for both of his presentation handouts (see third bullet). There needs to be a way to have families on the low end of the economic scale be cognizant of more affordable low energy homes and be economically attractive to seek them out when looking for housing.
* The Cape Light Compact works with teachers through NEED (National Energy Education Dept) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\_Energy\_Education\_Development\_Projec t](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Energy_Education_Development_Projec%20t) providing teachers with training to educate students in elementary through high school. The Compact also conducts continuing education for contractors and building inspectors.
* Revised minutes from Oct. 26, 2023 were approved
* The Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (CCCCC) https://capecodclimate.org/ has much information showing grants available as part of the inflation reduction act
* The Cape and Islands Self Reliance <https://selfreliancefuelcoop.org/> also provides info on energy efficiency.
* Glenn discussed CVEC next round and was planning to send out a ’10,000 ft’ explanation of CVEC community solar and solar projects. <https://cvecinc.org/programs-resources/>
* Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 21, 2023 @3:00 PM
* Meeting adjourned @5:35 PM