

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 3, 2022

Attendance: Richard Toole, Bill Cleary, Marilyn Miller, Craig Saunders, Dion Alley, Simon Shapiro, Peter Meleney, Emma Green-Beach (Ex Officio, Select Board Member), Garrett Albiston (Ex Officio, Conservation Agent)

Topic 1: Call meeting to order

Richard called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

Topic 2: Approve minutes for November 22, 2021 C&E meeting

The committee voted to approve the draft minutes as submitted.

Topic 3: Committee Chair

After very little discussion, the committee voted unanimously for Bill Cleary to be chair. With that, Richard stepped down to become an active alternate committee member. He was praised and thanked by other committee members for his many years of work for the cause.

Topic 4: Committee Organization

Bill noted that he and Si had been officially appointed to the committee by the Select Board on 12/28/21. He said that to organize the committee he would:

- a. Get expiration terms organized and posted for each member
- b. Meet with each member to discuss goals/interests.
- c. Get input from everyone concerned about whether to form a separate climate committee. This will involve resurrecting the Coastal Resilience group and figuring out how we interact with them. He noted that Wendy had suggested to Richard that we draft the Charge for each committee (new charge for Energy; separate charge for Climate).

Peter said that he had reservations about our setting up a separate Climate committee because of the overlap from outside groups such as MVC. He said he thought the town might be better served by there being two subcommittees within our present committee. Bill responded that he would keep this in mind as he reaches out to other people.

Topic 5: Energy Survey

Marilyn reported that the results from the limited number of OB residents who took the survey were that they were concerned about the cost to them of carrying the needed changes and they had a lack of knowledge about what needed to be done. Marilyn questioned about how we should respond to those who took the survey, what we should do with the results and whether we should reach out more to get

more people to take the survey. She also said that she hadn't had time to talk to Kate Warner about the time deadline for the survey, the goals, any response or the benefits from it. Bill asked Peter to contact Kate to get those questions answered and he agreed.

Emma offered to reach out to her contacts for more responses and asked if we had done anything with the high school students who organize the Climate Cafes (we haven't). Craig said he had a contact at the high school that he would follow up with. (He emailed later that she is Ana Cotton, the science teacher.)

Topic 6: WT Energy Committee 12/5/21 presentation on WT Energy Plan

Peter reported on the Zoom presentation that he and Marilyn attended. He said that they introduced three main strategies toward attaining the town's goal of being powered by 100% renewable energy by 2040 – support WT's transition to having all electric vehicles and town buildings, provide information to the public on making the transition toward more electricity in their homes, and propose a bylaw that would make all new construction and major renovations required to be 100% electric. Both Marilyn and Peter were surprised that there was no 10-point program proposed for achieving these goals. Marilyn said she liked the input from several people about how they had handled and experienced an energy transition and said that was something for us to remember when we do outreach to our community.

Topic 7: Home rule petition + bylaw

Richard and Bill said that we have already hit the town voters with a lot of things to consider recently and maybe we should wait on introducing this bylaw. The committee members informally agreed. Bill said that in the meantime he would contact the builder group to get their reaction.

Topic 8: Updates

Dion and Richard reported that there hadn't been any recent meeting of CVEC or CLC. Richard said he would check and get a report to send out to committee members about the last VSEC meeting (see his 1/3/22 email at 5:16 PM). As for the PACE program, Richard explained that that it is something a town adopts to allow developers to qualify for loans more easily. He suggested that someone talk to the town administrator, Deborah Potter about this or wait until there is a need by a developer.

Topic 9: Next Meeting

Marilyn suggested that we meet monthly from now on and that our next meeting be on Monday, 2/7/22 at 3:30 PM. The committee members agreed.

Topic 10: Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 4:32 PM

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter L. Meleney