

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 7, 2022

Attendance: Bill Cleary, Marilyn Miller, Richard Toole, Simon Shapiro, Dion Alley, Peter Meleney

Absent: Craig Saunders

Guest: Jeffery DuBard (PACE)

Topic 1: Call the meeting to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 3:32 pm.

Topic 2: Approve C&E meeting minutes for Jan. 3 & Feb. 7, 2022

Peter said that there were no corrections mentioned so the committee approved both minutes as submitted.

Topic 3: CAP/Climate Action Plan update

Bill announced that there would be a CAP OB Town Workshop on Wednesday, March 30, 2-3:30 pm and he urged us all to attend. He said he was surprised that the school and library were not included on the list of invitees. He also said that there is a CAP website – thevineyardway.org.

Topic 4: Individual Meetings

Bill announced that he had almost completed individual meetings with each of the committee members and had made the following assignments:

- Marilyn – organization
- Dion – 5-year energy plan
- Peter & Simon – vehicle inventory/life expectancy/suggested alternatives
- Craig – buildings

Bill emphasized that town department heads have their hands full and we should approach them with “How can we help you?” instead of being another person or group that they have to answer to. He said that he thinks we can help by making recommendations to department heads, FinCom and the Capital Committee on possible energy saving so that department heads can look beyond what needs to happen now.

He and others on the committee mentioned the following projects as examples:

- The OB School boiler replacement
- The highway department garage heater
- Solar at the landfill
- The wastewater plant upgrade
- Solar for the town hall (Dion mentioned that he had a conversation with Deborah Potter in which she brought up the idea of a solar canopy over the parking lot in addition)
- Battery backup for the solar at the fire house

Topic 5: Vineyard Power Development Fund

Bill announced that Marilyn had agreed to take Emma's place as the OB Town's representative to Vineyard Power Advisory Committee and that this would be formalized at the Select Board meeting on 3/8/22. Marilyn said that she attended the last meeting of the committee where there was a discussion of microgrids especially at the Town Hall/Library complex. Dion discussed the topic of microgrids which he said are complex problems that Eversource has to work out first though.

Topic 6: Climate Action Week, May 8-14, 2022

Bill noted the event and he reached out to Giulia Casalino (the event coordinator) to get details on OB participation, but they had not had time to talk yet.

Topic 7: PACE/Property Assessed Clean Energy

Bill introduced Jeffery DuBard, a developer who is interested in doing a project at 112-114 Dukes County Ave. where he might use this program as a financing mechanism for energy efficiency and climate resiliency. Bill noted that this type of project has to be presented to both the Planning Board and the Select Board and that the Select Board has to adopt the program.

Topic 8: VSEC Update

Bill reported that the Steamship Authority is purchasing four electric buses. The school system is also investigating this, but the situation there is much more involved. Kate Warner and the VTA are taking the lead there.

Topic 9: Energy Survey

Bill reported that this topic did not get discussed at the last VSEC meeting, but he will bring it up at the next one.

Topic 10: Green Community Designation

Bill reported that there has not been any new information about this and it is still at the state level.

Topic 11: CLC, CVEC, 5-Year Plan

Dion reported that program administration may be taken away from CLC because the proper designation is being questioned by Eversource. He added that it is hard to know how this will play out at this time.

Topic 12: Next Meeting

Marilyn reminded everyone that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 4, 2022 at 3:30 pm. Hopefully, we will be able to meet in person.

Topic 13: Adjourn

The committee voted to adjourn at 4:42 pm

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter L. Meleney