

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 27, 2022

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

Absent: Craig Saunders

Topic 1: Call Meeting to order

Bill called the meeting to order at 3:34 pm.

Topic 2: Approve C&E meeting minutes for 3/7/22, 4/4/22 & 5/2/22

The committee approved the minutes of 5/2/22 without any changes. The minutes for 3/7/22 and 4/4/22 had been previously been approved as amended.

Topic 3: Green Communities

Bill reported that there had been another question raised by the state people reviewing our application, but it was a minor one that he was able to answer right away. He said he thought we should be hearing soon about our designation.

Topic 4: Climate Action Plan

Bill reported that the MVC Climate Action Plan is about three weeks away from being published. In response to a question from Peter about the island-wide nature of the problems, Bill said that all the towns have similar issues and that does point to the need for the regionalization of solutions. He further pointed out that this situation leads to the fact that grants to help take care of the problems are more forthcoming if all the towns work together.

Topic 5: OB Elementary School boiler replacement

Bill reported that he had been unable to schedule any meetings about the school boiler replacement in spite of the fact that the Select Board had confirmed that we should be involved when the subject came up at the spring Town Meeting. He has exchanged emails with the high school treasurer who copied the OB School principal to contact him to attend the next meeting, but has received no response. He plans to contact the new school superintendent after 7/4/22 as well as Wendy Brough. Dion suggested that it would be good for Wendy to form a steering committee. Richard suggested that Bill involve the school committee. Si asked kind of boiler was being discussed now. At the Town Meeting, FinCom had stated that it was a hi-efficiency propane one. Marilyn said not to forget having Marc Rosenbaum involved.

Topic 6: OB Climate Adaption Booklet

Bill said that he would like Marilyn and Craig as we move forward to organize and prioritize our committee work. He needs our input as he and Dion work on the Town's 5-year plan. He is still planning to meet with Wendy and Richie Combra for their input. Marilyn suggested that we involve the OB residents who replied to the climate questionnaire. Si brought up problems he had heard about RISE Engineering evaluations of homes and he wondered what they are supposed to be doing. Dion said that he would be willing to set up a meeting through CLC to have a representative from RISE attend out next meeting. Bill asked him to go ahead with that. Dion added that it was his understanding that RISE would be coming back to OB in September to work with town businesses.

Topic 7: Committee member updates

Dion reported on the following topics:

- CLC – There is an electric bike rebate program, but they are having difficulty getting any island bike shops to participate. The owners of the shops like the idea but are not sure of the mechanics, how much paperwork it will be for them, how the tax is handled, etc. CLC is putting together a FAQ to help address those questions.
- CVEC – Had its board meeting in June where the annual budget was approved. It included a 60+% increase in the Managing Director's salary which was approximately a \$50K raise. Round 6 of the solar projects which include OB Town Hall and OB Police Station were waiting to be awarded at the time of the meeting. The Town still has the right to exercise the option of moving forward in a 3-year time frame. The Police Station roof must be replaced and a chimney addressed prior to any solar work occurring and it is not in the 2022/2023 budget to repair. The Town Hall has leaks in its roof and needs to be repaired. Then the Town needs to ensure that it would not breach the warranty to put panels on the roof.
- In September, the CLC will be holding a OB Main Streets initiative that spends the day going to businesses to discuss energy saving opportunities. CLC has asked the town to be a sponsor and is awaiting confirmation from the Town Administrator. The sponsorship is no cost to the Town, but would allow the information to be put on the Town website and materials passed out to the businesses would have the Town Seal and the Town Administrator's signature. This event was held last year as well and Dion said that he is hoping that with the new stretch codes businesses will be more interested in learning about what is coming and how CLC and others can help.

Topic 8: Next Meeting – Monday, August 1, 2022 at 3:30 pm via Zoom

Topic 9: Motion to Adjourn

At 4:50 pm, a motion to adjourn was made and approved by the committee.

Respectfully submitted by,

Peter L. Meleney