

Oak Bluffs Climate and Energy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 24, 2021

Via Zoom

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

Ex Officio: Emma Green-Beach, Select Board member, Garrett Albiston, Conservation Agent

Guest: Alan Strahler, Edgartown Energy Committee

Topic 1: Call meeting to order

Richard called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

Topic 2: Approve minutes for September 10, 2021 C&E meeting

The minutes of the September 10, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Topic 3: Welcome Dion Alley to the Committee

Richard welcomed Dion to the committee and said that he and Dion had both attended the CVEC September meeting via Zoom. He also said that Dion would be our rep to the CLC (Cape Light Compact).

Topic 4: 100% Renewable Warrant article for Nov, 9 OB TM

Alan presented his slide show on the 100% Renewable Warrant article and followed that with the one on Transforming the Island's Energy System. There was some discussion about whether to try to present both to the Select Board in the next few weeks, but the committee decided to concentrate on the 100% Renewable first since it will be voted on at the town meeting.

Alan graciously offered to modify either slide presentation to meet our needs. The committee requested a few slides from the "Transforming" PPT be incorporated into Alans "100% Renewable" talk, including a slide on available consumer products (EV vehicles, electric heat pumps), a vertical bar chart (green, yellow and orange) on Energy Use based on current and future conditions, the Island map showing the Eversource cables, etc. Alan agreed to modify the presentation as discussed and forward the revised PPT to us and possibly attend our October 8th meeting. Our target presentation is the October 26 meeting of the OB Select Board.

The question of how to reach out to the community before the vote came up and Alan outlined all that his committee had done. Dion emphasized the importance of letting the public know how this will affect them and the need to take the message into the schools and educate the public about the benefits. Emma asked about the availability of different types of electric vehicles and heavier type equipment. Alan advised that these types are currently available in Europe and with increasing usage. How we as a committee will reach out to the community before the Town Meeting was left open for our next meeting.

As for the Transforming the Island's Energy System slide show, we saw some new slides and Alan said that as a result of the information that VSEC had gathered, Eversource was beginning to move in the right direction to meet the increase in demand projected. One way to do this will be to reduce the peaks via demand pricing (based on how electricity is used throughout the day). DPA (this was related to how electricity would be priced throughout the day with lower prices at night to incentivize consumers to charge their EV's at night vs. during the day when larger loads occur.

Topic 5: Report on 9/14 meeting with Wendy Brough

Bill reported that he and Richard and Marilyn had a very fruitful meeting with Wendy and that she is very supportive of our efforts. She is going to revive the Coastal Infrastructure Committee and suggested that Bill and Emma participate with that committee.

Wendy reiterated her expectation and support of the C&E Committee evaluating and making expectations on how the Green Designation funds should be spent. We would continue to work with Department Heads and the Highway Superintendent.

Bill did not report about any Website discussion with Wendy.

Peter suggested at our meeting that there be separate Climate and Energy subcommittees. This echoes a comment Wendy made in an email to Bill, though Marilyn reported that this was not discussed during the 9/14 meeting.

Richard emphasized the need for a facilities maintenance coordinator.

The committee agreed that our focus under the Green Community Designation should be on the list of Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) developed for the Green Communities Grant Program. The committee did not decide who would be in charge or who would have first responsibility for heading up this activity.

Topic 6: CAP (Climate Action Plan) from Meghan Gombos/MVC

Bill asked the committee members to read over the forwarded information about this plan and send him our individual recommendations for town members of the various working groups by 10/15/21.

Topic 7: Other updates, issues

Bill reported that the meeting with the school committee scheduled for 9/21 had been postponed until this coming Tuesday, 9/28.

Richard said the next meeting suggested that our next meeting should be on Friday, 10/8 and the committee agreed.

The committee voted to adjourn at 4:22 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Peter L. Meleney