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Approved at the April 13th meeting
Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes March 9, 2023

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON April 13, 2023, AT 4:15 PM

Present: Susan Chandler, Martin Culik, David Jacobson, Hakim Janah, John Londa, Roger McDaniel

Select Board Representative: Michael Herman (Virtual)

The meeting was called to order at 4:17 pm.

Announcements: Paul Cass will video record the specialized stretch code talk at the Truro public library on March 23 . All are welcome to attend.

Review of January and February committee meeting minutes: David Jacobson had some minor, clarifying amendments to both the January and February meeting minutes. With these changes, the minutes were unanimously approved.

Nauset Beach Parking Update: We have received an update from Voltrek. The price is the same as their previous quote. Paul Cass stated that Tesla has announced they will soon be making their chargers available for all makes of electric vehicles. If we use Voltrek, after the state and Eversource incentives, we would need roughly \$12,000 for 3 charging stations. Hakim Janah proposed that we should perhaps install 1 or 2 stations wait to see if new options may develop in the near future. The Voltrek representative did not think the EV stations could be funded with Green Community (GC) funds. The \$12,000 is to cover the warranty and the network used to access the chargers. The equipment costs would be mostly covered by a grant and construction of the power source lines would be covered by Eversource. Michael Herman said that we would not be able to build this before next winter because of fund availability timing. This matter needs to be brought to the town manager very soon. Susan Chandler and John Londa will arrange to meet with Charlie Sumner.

Meeting of Town Committee Chairs with Andrea Reed: Hakim Janah attended this monthly meeting, which was held on March 3, 2023, on behalf of this committee's chair. There were not many topics discussed that directly involved our committee. The meeting focused on communication between the town committees as well as with town residents. Housing issues were also discussed. The committees were encouraged to stay focused on their goals, especially those that should be addressed at the fall town meeting. This committee was encouraged to contribute to the select board website monthly in conjunction with town meetings.

Solar Energy Projects: Roger McDaniel noted that we currently have 4 proposed solar projects in various stages of development. The consensus of this committee was to recommend that the proposed assistant to Ron Collins could be person who is knowledgeable about energy and climate change issues, but no one has yet been hired for this assistant position.

Review and update of Committee goals: John Londa stated that the goals document is a Google document, and it can be edited individually by committee members. He discussed the first two goals (to develop the full potential for renewable energy for municipal operations and to develop well thought out plans for energy efficiency and energy conservation for municipal infrastructure and document how

we are implementing them). CVEC is still trying to find a vendor for the 2 proposed solar projects (at the DPW and the old composting sites). Any solar project that exceeds two years requires approval at town meeting. The second goal was to develop plans for energy conservation for any new municipal infrastructure projects or renovations. It was noted again that the town cannot apply for more Green Community funds until the old allotments have been expended. Ron Collins is pursuing bids for other GC eligible projects, as the ones originally applied for and approved have been stalled, now indefinitely. No action on Goal 2 has been taken yet because we are unclear about the town's willingness to spend additional (non GC) funds on energy efficiency on future projects. Roger McDaniel recommended that the town should examine all its recent building projects and determine whether energy efficiency was prioritized and if not explain why. There was further discussion about which types of projects might be appropriate for GC funding. The topic of encouraging all future building projects to prioritize energy efficiency was discussed again. Michael Herman said that energy efficiency aspects of projects should be emphasized at both the planning and RFP stages of a project. He encouraged our committee to talk with the Select Board about these issues. Further discussion on energy efficiency topics (not directly related to goals 1 or 2) ensued.

Goal 3 is to implement a plan to encourage residential and commercial entities to increase energy efficiency (Susan Chandler and Kevin Clements). Susan later reported that there is a new group in town called the Orleans Climate Action Network. They are a citizens group. She met with two leaders of this committee and invited them to come to our next meeting. Citizen action groups exist in many other towns on the Cape and she suggested that we work with them to conduct outreach seminars like Truro and Eastham are doing.

Goal 4 is to integrate efficiency and sustainability into every action the town is involved in. Roger McDaniel is the coordinator on this goal. Roger commented that it would be helpful to add one or two columns on our spreadsheet, one for goal status and a second for additional comments.

Hakim Janah spoke about Goal 5, which is to track the Green Communities Act funds in order to optimize grant applications and available fund usage. Some of the tasks have been completed and he added that fact to the spreadsheet. Other goals could not be completed because they are contingent on spending currently allocated Green Community funds entirely. Susan Chandler asked Hakim to contact Ron Collins every month before our meetings to get updates on GC status. Further discussion on the GC approval process continued. David Jacobson stated that we should focus on the town hall chiller project.

Goal 6 is to develop a plan to have an energy sustainability manager funded by CLC. Martin Culik said that there is no money available from CLC for this position. The committee suggested that we remove CLC from this goal statement. David Jacobson said that the short-term goal is to develop a job description for this position.

Solar Watershed Proposed Project: Roger McDaniel drafted a series of questions regarding this and sent them to Alan McClennen. Alan promptly responded. Part of his response was to present a detailed map of the area. He also found out that any projects on the watershed area must be for the purposes that protect and enhance the water produced in this area. He also said that tree cutting is not strictly prohibited in the area. Hakim Janah brought to the committee a large map of the watershed provided by Alan McClennen and commented that we should propose specific locations for approval by the Water and Sewer Board because that would be easier for them to approve. Roger McDaniel stated that we should talk to people who have already built solar power installations to learn about the process to draw

on their expertise. John Londa said that 80% of electricity usage for water production is at the water plant itself. He estimated that an area of 250 by 250 feet would be needed. This would likely require that some trees be cut in this area. Paul Cass asked about putting batteries at that site. John said that this would pose a problem because of the toxic materials in the batteries. David Jacobson stated that a good site for the panels would be adjacent to the landfill site where we already have solar panels. Roger McDaniel will follow up on this.

Stretch Code Updates: Roger McDaniel said that he is currently working on understanding two stretch code issues. One issue is to understand the requirements of the stretch code updates that are happening automatically, because Orleans is a Green Community. Residential stretch code updates were effective on January 1, 2023, and commercial stretch code updates will be effective on July 1, 2023. The second issue is on potential specialized opt-in additions to the stretch code. We are working with the Outer Cape Climate Action Committees on this. It is a complicated topic and one needs to know the current building codes to understand the impact of the opt-in additions. There may be some resistance to these additional requirements among the builders. People need to be educated on the existing stretch code update to understand the impact of the opt-in additions. A motion to adopt the specialized opt-in code will be made at the next Truro town meeting in April. Our goal for Orleans is to consider the stretch code opt-in additions as the warrant for the Fall town meeting. The opt in means that it must be approved at a town meeting before it becomes a requirement.

Susan Chandler asked the committee if we want to have outreach meetings on the topics of opt-in stretch codes, EV chargers, and electrification and heat pumps. She said that the key topic is the specialized, opt-in stretch codes. Roger McDaniel said that there is a consulting group that has been hired to give such presentations to community groups.

Other Topics: Hakim Janah once again brought up the importance of hiring someone to assist the committee. Susan Chandler said that that person could be the (not yet hired) assistant for Ron Collins. Susan said that Wellfleet had recently hired a person to assist with renewable energy matters. Hakim noted that Brewster has hired a part-time person (initially paid for with GC funds) to work on renewable energy matters and it has paid off for them so much that this person's costs were now being covered by the town.

Susan Chandler announced that on Tuesday March 28 at 4:00 pm , the committee chairs will meet to talk about the town's new comprehensive long-term plan. This will be an opportunity for her to talk about ECAC priorities. *[After the meeting, Andrea Reed contacted Susan and offered the committee a spot in the May Select Board meeting to share our priorities. No date has been set.]*

Determining town energy costs was briefly discussed. The documents provided by Ron Collins were rather complex and difficult to interpret.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Clements