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Minutes were Approved at the May 11, 2023 Meeting
Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes April 13, 2023

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON May 11, 2023, AT 4:15 PM

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

Select Board Representative: Michael Herman (Virtual)

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 4:16 pm.

Review of the March Minutes

Martin Culik moved and Roger McDaniel seconded the motion to approve the minutes, as amended. The motion was passed 6-0.

Invited Guests: Cee Cee Buckley, Tessa English, Liz DeLima and Carol Collings from the Orleans Climate Action Network (OCAN)

Cee Cee described the Mission of the OCAN which is to advance the messaging and communication about climate change in Orleans. Her committee members have looked at the charges of other town committees in Orleans; looked at the structure of communication across the committees; their awareness of the issues related to and impact of climate change and their capacity for outreach. They reviewed the Orleans Comprehensive Town Plan, the climate energy mitigation plans, the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative’s website, and the relevant Cape Cod Commission’s materials.

OCAN wants to develop a common language to discuss the issues of climate change; help people develop questions and increase the understanding about this issue. They have been involved with other towns’ climate action networks and want to help the Orleans Energy and Climate Action Committee. They want to foster collaboration and they noted that they have expertise in event management, which would be very helpful to any outreach effort. They have met with several other chairs in Orleans and are optimistic that Orleans is moving forward.

Tessa asked what our committee members would like to see and do re: public outreach, and asked how they could help us.

Several of the E&CAC noted our issues as getting the new, specialized opt-in stretch code passed at the fall Town meeting; implement policies that ensure that all new municipal construction and/or renovation follow the newest and highest efficiency standards possible; install EV charging stations at Nauset Beach and reduce fossil utilization by increasing solar wherever possible.

Tessa suggested that they could help put on a workshop through the life-time learning program at Snow Library and/or help with putting on other workshops. They mentioned perhaps working with the Orleans Citizen Forum or getting articles in the Chronicle as good outreach tools.

They offered help with updating and publicizing the town website.

We discussed the importance of getting the right materials to the right audiences.

The specialized stretch code. We discussed our plan to get an article on the specialized op-in stretch code approved at the fall town meeting. We noted that it would be important to get correct information out to builders, as well as citizens, so they will know exactly what this change will mean to them. The stretch code is a complicated topic. We discussed that we would need to invite and include builders into these discussions since they would be the most impacted by this change. The ECAC hasn't done any outreach events yet, but it is in one of our committee's goals.

Martin Culik offered to be the committee liaison with Cape Light Compact; Roger McDaniel and John Londa also volunteered to join this group's efforts.

MOTION

Susan Chandler moved, and Roger McDaniel seconded a motion, to establish a communications sub-committee (with the Orleans Citizens Action Network) to work on these outreach strategies. The motion passed unanimously (6-0). Cee Cee will follow up and get the first meeting organized. The committee members thanked this group for their great work and look forward to collaborating with them.

Sue Lynch Orleans Snow Library Trustee

Sue Lynch, Orleans Snow Library Trustee, talked to the committee about the Snow Library Feasibility Study. Ms. Lynch requested that our committee support the need to conduct this feasibility study and vote for it at Town meeting. The request will be \$180,000 (\$90,000 town funds, \$90,000 from the library). She also wants our committee to work with them as the plan goes forward. She explained that the Finance Committee and Select Board have agreed to put the article on the Warrant for the upcoming town meeting.

We mentioned that our interest would be that we want all new buildings to be as energy efficient as possible; electrify and solarize whenever possible; and build with energy efficient materials. We would encourage this group to look at meeting the enhanced, specialized stretch code standards, even if the heightened rules don't pass at Town meeting.

The new library will probably be built on the same land where the library is currently.

We asked Ms. Lynch who makes the final decisions re: being an energy efficient building? What is the scope of work in the feasibility study? We reminded Ms. Lynch that we have to get to net zero in 2050. We think this discussion may be a bit premature and probably this discussion happens at the design committee stage.

Meeting with Charlie Sumner

John Londa, Susan Chandler and Michael Herman met with Charlie Sumner to let him know about the goals of our Committee. We discussed the Green Community Funds, the EV charging stations, Power Options and the Water Shed initiative. He was interested in our work and suggested that we will need to meet the new town manager.

Ron Collins: Green Community Act Update

There has been no progress this quarter on expending the Green Community Funds. Ron has been working on the existing town projects that need fixes and updates. He has not been able to hire an assistant yet but is already looking at 4 candidates.

Ron Collins asked, "What's happening with the EV stations at Nauset?" John Londa again reported out the data on the bid... \$4,395 a year, plus electricity (which would be reimbursed). Money would need to become a part of the Nauset Beach enterprise funds... and they have money in their account.

Charlie Sumner did not make any decisions at our meeting about moving this project along. John Londa noted that we need to get a grant application in so we can eventually get the reimbursements.

Ron Collins said he will circle back with Charlie Sumner to check again if there is authority to move forward.

We asked again if the Green Community funds will get spent on any of the existing project Ron is working on?

Replacing the attic air handler at the fire station (can't do)

Senior Center Project (can't do)

Town Building Chiller (can't do)

Ron Collins pointed out that most maintenance or upgrade for municipal facilities will remain small or urgent, and he believes it would be a better idea to identify a big, new project that can be Green Community compliant to use the Green Community Act money.

John Londa said perhaps the town could have gotten reimbursed \$10,000 of Green Community funds for hybrid police car cruisers? Or the Elementary school kitchen? There is a \$100,000 feasibility study re: the elementary school update.

Unfortunately, it is not yet a standard procedure in Orleans to always ask if the most energy efficient building is being designed and implemented. Thus, we're not benefitting from all of the Cape Light and National Grid reimbursements.

Specialized Opt-In Stretch Code

Roger McDaniel reminded the committee that to get the stretch code approved at fall Town Meeting, we need to design an effective communication strategy. We need to understand what the new code will do and structure communication strategies that are effective.

How do we want to present this information in Orleans? We may want to make multiple presentations. Who is the audience? We will need to explain in as much detail that is most appropriate to the audience we're talking to. The information must be relevant to the individuals in the room. Truro and Wellfleet are going ahead at their spring town meetings so we can learn from them.

A new stretch code would affect the library renovations, the Fire station, etc.

The Solarization of the Watershed

Roger McDaniel suggested we need the answers to a lot of questions to see if solarization is possible at the Watershed. Can the town do it? What are the restrictions? How large? Where? For what purposes? Who has the authority to make the decisions re: deed restrictions? The State? The Town? The Water Board? Who decides? The Select Board? Who has control of the land? Who is going to move this project forward? Roger McDaniel recommended that Susan Chandler and Alan McClennen meet and ask the town manager to designate someone to answer the questions.

Is it on the list of our renewable energy projects? No. We need the Board of Water Commissioners or the Water Department to say it wants to do this. Maybe we could get PowerOptions to give us an estimate?

Mark Berson is now vice chair of the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners. Maybe he can become the champion for this initiative. We need all the water people to say "yes." Susan Chandler agreed to follow-up with Alan McClennen.

The Orleans Comprehensive Plan

All the town committees have been asked to look over the last comprehensive plan (2006). We are supposed to answer the question "Have we seen progress" in the areas relevant to our committee?

There was not much related to energy or climate issues in the 2006 plan, so may want to write a new chapter. Susan Chandler recommended that a sub-committee work on this and draft a response for the committee's review. Then we should spend most of the time at the May meeting reviewing the sub-committee's work.

Would our committee charge be the starting point? Or our goals?

Hakim Janah, Roger McDaniel, John Londa and Susan Chandler volunteered to be the sub-committee. The 2006 Comprehensive Plan and the update are on the website.

Committee Leadership Changes

Kevin Clements wants to resign from being the committee's scribe. We will need to find a new scribe. Susan Chandler will be rotating off as Chair, in July and will recommend that John Londa be the new Chair. We will also need a new vice chair.

Adjourn

Hakim Janah moved and David Jacobson seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously (6-0) at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Chandler