Falmouth Energy Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 13th at 8am
Small Conference Room
Falmouth Town Hall

Members Present: Meghan Amsler, Megan O’Reilly, Matt Patrick, Alex Bocconcelli, Rosemary Carey
Also Present: Charles Radar, Grant Walker, Tom Bott, Planning Department

1) Reviewed May minutes and approved.

2) Discussed Renewable Energy priority projects
   - Agreed to focus on schools - great places for EV infrastructure
   - Alex mentioned WHOI want to replace van with EV
   - Megan recommended Whoosh - to run on biodiesel or EV
   - Matt Patrick will reach out to Tom Cehir re: EV bus for Woosh trolly

We decided to focus primarily on schools: Solar rooftop PV, solar canopies in parking lots, EV’s for schools. Emphasis on energy conservation & public health reasons

Energy Committee Study identified schools with very high and high desirability: East Falmouth Elementary, parking canopy; FHS (already has 26KW), battery storage desirable (900MW of diesel generated there already.) Lawrence - High. Morse Pond roof 500KW space available, also has new roof. Mullen Hall parking lot.

Tom Bott asked for the Energy Committee’s recommendations on sites. Must pass muster of building commissioner who believes it is an “accessory use” so a building cannot generate more energy than it uses. Rosemary pointed out that generating excess energy is a primary reason to invest in solar. Tom recommended speaking with Rod Palmer, Building Inspector, who interprets whether a solar installation is accessory or primary.

Megan pointed out that Energy Committee is advocating for 100% renewable energy. We need to help people use available technology within the parameters of our treed community. Archaic rules on the books will prevent us from making the transition that we need. Tom said these are the
types of issues we want to bring to the Board. We need a standard that an
be applied universally. Example: Fair Grounds is in the middle of this
discussion. Wants solar but it would be an “accessory use” (therefore
making the solar less economically beneficial.) and Planning Board
suggested only North of 151. Tom suggested an “accessory plus’ district
for non-residential solar programs. Tom Bott mentioned a meeting he has
had(?) or planned with Tom Murphy re: solar. (on website). To be
discussed: What’s the number? What schools. All agreed the Energy
Committee would like to be involved in this and other conversations.

Time frame: Planning Board is making a pitch now for solar projects..
June 18th or 28th meeting or early July 9. E-Comm needs to present
priorities at one of those meetings.

Matt Patrick reminded Tom that state law allows for solar, and cannot be
restricted. Tom suggested brining that information to Planning Board.

[Aside - Grant asked if his proposal for Net Zero energy housing will be
considered by Planning Board. Tom replied that it will be considered.
November 2020 TM will describe the Davis Straits. ]

Alex suggested battery storage. Citizens Energy microgrids - Tom Bott said
Planning Board is already in talks with them on this. Also, the Lawrence
Lynch project will have a battery storage component.

Tom explained the Planning Board is engaged with the LCP (definition?)
process. It’s a “reset” button for town.

3) Discuss CVEC model vs other models
Rosemary will give CVEC a list of our school priorities and ask for
numbers. Will coordinate with Megan Amsler on this.

CVEC - Rosemary will speak with Peter Johnson-Stalb and follow next
steps: go to Select Board meeting and get in budget by August for
Fall TM.

Questions: Is there a cap on mileage on the leasing deals? Is there an
insurance issue with charging stations? Rosemary to get answers from
CVEC.
4) Cape-wide energy meeting report - Was held on 6/6/19. Rosemary will forward minutes when issued.

5) EV project update - Rosemary describe EV Educational program with Upper Cape Women’s Coalition on July 11th or August 1. We agreed to co-sponsor. Need volunteers from E-Comm. Megan will reserve an intern to man/woman the table. Rosemary to show her Plug-in Electric Vehicle (PHEV); also has lined up a Tesla.

Have MoreEV literature at event - Tom urged have this available to Airdrop - save paper. MORE EV program handout - Rosemary

Matt Patrick asked, What’s the latest on PACE? (Businesses would get the benefits of a bond, same as municipalities. Low interest rates, etc.for renewable energy and conservation projects.) Falmouth businesses want this. Tom Bott will look into it, check in with Peter Johnson-Staub.

Have Stretch Code on next agenda. Due diligence with TM members and builders continues; Meghan & Grant to prepare article.

6) Set next meeting: June 27 8am.