

Falmouth Energy Committee

Minutes

Wednesday, January 8th at 8am

Small Conference Room, Falmouth Town Hall

Members present: Megan Amsler, Alex Bocconcelli, Rosemary Carey, Matt Patrick

Guests: Charles Rader, Tom Bott arrived at 9am

- 1) Review December minutes - approved
- 2) Discuss promotion of energy efficiency and energy resiliency programs. EComm will co-sponsoring events for public with Cape Light Compact (CLC). May also do something with the Falmouth Chamber of Commerce. Alex suggested the Sustainability Committee at WHOI will do something.

Matt suggested we contact bank(s) to see if they can offer lower mortgage rates for a low HERS rating.

We need to get more Yes's to an energy assessment. Rosemary suggested visiting Village Associations to speak, provide content to newsletters.

- 3) Website discussion. Current website is found at: Energy@FalmouthMA.gov
 - We discussed who will be the person who will receive the emails? Megan currently receives; Matt Patrick volunteered to put his email up repmattp@gmail.com
 - Physical mail - exists behind Barbara's office. Megan checks it periodically; nothing comes.
 - Climate Action Protection Plan - last updated 2006. Should be on website from an archive perspective.
 - Green Communities Energy Action Plan is very different from Climate Action Plan. Looks at businesses and residential things we can do collectively.
 - Charles - suggested latest available documents should be posted if they replace an existing plan. Also committee members.
 - Megan asked who would be interested in meeting with Margaret Song of CLC. Energy Action Plan is due in the fall but we should get started. Rosemary interested.
 - Rosemary's website suggestions:
 - Mission
 - Members & Openings
 - Link to agenda & minutes
 - Green Communities - Link & status
 - Cape Light Compact Energy Efficiency Programs
 - PACE Program
 - All documents currently on website: Climate Action Plan
 - Link to Global Warming Solutions Actm
 - Wind resources
 - Resources section:

- Cape Light Compact
- CVEC
- Mass Solarize
- Electric Vehicle resources
- Carbon footprint calculator

Events

Projects we support:

State legislation & TM resolutions

Form to volunteer & Form to comment

Lots of photos of projects we have been or are involved in.

- Megan's suggestions:
 - Link to Eversource
 - MORE EV program
 - Clean Cities Link
 - Links to electric charging station resources
- Alex suggestions:
 - Suggested focusing on what we are doing. EVs, EV charging stations, electric buses

Looking at Australia, Alex asked whether there is a plan to address out of control fires.

Megan asked how we get that stuff addressed.

- Charles - members list and how to contact.

We have a Facebook Falmouth Energy Committee: https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=falmouth%20energy%20committee&epa=SEARCH_BOX

5. Climate Emergency Petition - Rosemary presented a petition to Spring Town Meeting, Article 37, Climate Emergency Declaration. The petition is part of a global "Climate Mobilization" effort and a Cape-Wide initiative to encourage every town on the Cape to declare a climate emergency and direct its town committees to take actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with a goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050, with actions in a time frame that is economically and technologically feasible. Petitioners will seek endorsements from Town Committees and civic groups (town-specific and Cape-wide).

Megan noted that the Selectmen signed the Mayoral agreement years ago. (This should be on the website) Falmouth's municipal load is only 3-4% of energy used in the town; the 100% renewable energy by 2050 goal applies to the entire town.

Existing buildings is now the low hanging fruit. (ESCOs handled much of Town's energy needs) We need to figure out a way to go beyond the Energy Assessment Program. Leverage existing housing stock. Charles questioned word "imminent" - debated. We took it out.

Committee voted to endorse the Petition.

6. MIT sustainability committee has a great website & link. See interactive software. Megan will send link & Alex will send info about scientists that can endorse.

7. PACE - Matt described PACE legislation (Property Assessed Clean Energy)- a “betterment” fee you pay quarterly on your taxes. Legislation put off til March 10th. Matt suggested we invite representative to give presentation to the EDIC and local businesses on March 10th, during Select Board meeting at 8:30 am, Town Hall. Our accounting software does not have the ability to pull properties out - but other towns have adopted this since then.

Alex reported that WHOI will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2030 - goal to be carbon zero. Matt will contact Eric Jensen at MBL Connect with Doug Brown on proclamation.

9. Tom Bott asked what progress is being made on Green Communities. Megan replied that Margaret Song now has permission to get into Mass Energy Insight; there are additional items we are working on.

New Business:

1. Habitat homes (10 homes) Rosemary suggested we invite Beth Wade from Habitat to come to a meeting re: renewable energy for new development in Waquoit. Megan will reach out.

2. Tom Bott reported on Affordable homes near:
40 shore St.

North Falmouth Post office - multiple units in NoFal. 10-12 units off - near bank
40 units on Brick Kiln Rd

3. Charles Rader described geothermal benefits and suggested we try to help get that off the ground. Pros: saves \$ but Cons: Costly & longer payback period. A demonstration project from a research pov could get funded. **Megan will look into it, and see if we can do a feasibility study. Megan asked for feedback on how we can be more effective. Better homes and more energy efficient.**

Rosemary will send Climate Emergency Petition to Tom Bott. He will send us a list of proposed 40Bs. “friendly 40Bs” or “local initiative program” or LIP

Falmouth Housing Corp - homes near Senior Center

Tom shared info re: Home Modification Loan Program.

Suggested we get emails from Zoning Board - so we can see agenda.

Next meeting: Wed. Feb. 12 8am

Changed to Thurs. Feb. 13 8am