

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

Members Present: Megan Amsler, Rosemary Carey, Matt Patrick, Alex Bocconcelli
Guests: Charles Rader, Eleanor Ling

- 1) **Review January 2020 minutes** - approved
- 2) **Review Committee's web presence/email, etc.** Megan will start a google drive file and invite all to contribute material for the website. Once this is done, we will go to the IT department and ask for the documents and links to be uploaded. We discussed whether this drive file would violate Open Meeting Law. Megan will check with Town.
- 3) **Discuss promotion of energy efficiency and energy resiliency programs.** Cape Light Compact (CLC) - solar, heat pumps, electric vehicles, storage. Will apply to MassCEC for this. Falmouth, Mashpee, Bourne & Sandwich would apply as a group. First step: need to go before each Town Board for approval. Ultimate goal: educational outreach. Host open houses with presenters talking about each of the technologies and how take advantage of it. Action plan: go to civic groups, places of worship. Rosemary suggested enlisting volunteers who are bringing the Climate Emergency Petitions. Expertise is an issue with volunteers. Maggie Downey of CLC & Megan meeting next week re: Mass Solarize. Choose installer(s). Self-Reliance will oversee implementation with CLC on Upper Cape. Alex suggested a solar demo at key locations in town to educate on benefits of solar. Rosemary will help with outreach with her contacts in other towns re: climate emergency declaration TM warrant. We voted to endorse the Energy Committee's participation in the Upper Cape Energize program.
- 4) **Report on Green Communities application progress.** Megan had conversation with Paul Gentile, ESCO coordinator for Town of Falmouth (former energy coordinator) & got updates on items needed by Margaret Song (questions, reports, vehicle procurement policy - also needs to go to the School Board - no timeline clear). Green Communities application will be submitted in August - we are on track to make it. We are

concerned Phase 3 ESCO - opportunities lie within the schools. Plan to reduce energy consumption by 20% in five years. Schools were identified as the place to get those savings - well defined (boiler, roof, insulation under roof, etc.)

Aside re: topic of solar, but not Green Communities related - Rosemary asked how we can get solar panels identified at schools started. Megan explained there's a cap on net metering currently with Eversource and financing is an obstacle; Falmouth at capacity. We discussed resolving this through the legislative process. **Matt suggested sending a letter to state legislators to up the net metering cap.**

Matt will ask Megan English Braga for the agreement that town has for PV solar farm to find out what happened to low to moderate-income subsidies.

Megan identified open spaces ripe for solar: Walmart & Stop & Shop. PACE low interest financing and community support needed. We should find out who owns the parking lots. **Rosemary will find out from Town Clerk who owns or leases lots.**

5) **PACE legislation** - Matt has presentation to EDIC on March 10th 8:30 am Select Board meeting. Write LTE to explain why this is a good thing to pass as a community.

6) **Discuss outreach strategy for the climate emergency TM petition** (See above energy efficiency)

- PACE & WHOI actions. PACE legislation is one thing we can do to address climate emergency. State will finance for improvements for commercial buildings and large institutions. Can get improvements financed at 20-year terms at 2 or 3%. Very good terms.
- Elaine - suggested lobbying TM members
- All suggested Rosemary talk to TM members and listen, lay out objectives, and find out what their objections will be at TM might be.
- Elaine suggested that constituents go to the precinct leader or TM members - also call or write. Rosemary to send finalized language, PPT

7) Next meeting date: Wed. March 11 8am Town Hall.

##

Article 37: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Town of Falmouth recognizes that the climate emergency, driven by human activity including energy consumption and land use practices and leading to global warming, rising seas, deadly storms, dangerous heat waves, acidifying oceans, and melting ice sheets, poses a threat to the health, safety and economic security of the residents of the Terefore adopts as its policy the objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to zero at the earliest technic