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Heidi A. Sign
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

Energy and Climate Action Committee

Minutes June 8, 2023

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON June 29th, 2023, AT 4:15 PM

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

Invited Guests: Cecelia Buckley, Elizabeth Delima from the Orleans Climate Action Network (OCAN)

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 4:15 pm.

Review of the May Minutes

The minutes of the May meeting were approved unanimously.

Announcements

June 12, 2023 from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm there will be an evening with Bill McKibben (a well-known environmentalist) at the Barnstable Performing Arts Auditorium. It's called 'A Time to Collaborate' and it is supported by the Cape Cod Climate Collaborative.

On June 13, 2023, the Cape Cod Climate Network Collaborative will present a zoom meeting which will be posted on our website.

The biannual meeting of the Energy and Climate Action Committees of Cape Cod with Liz Argo is meeting on June 22 at 4:30 pm at Cape Light Compact Offices and on Zoom.

Andrea Shaw will be our new liaison to the Select Board starting July 1.

Communication Committee (CC) Update

Cecelia Buckley and Elizabeth Delima said that the CC will discuss education of the community regarding the specialized stretch code. There is a need for climate action education to provide background for future discussions of the specialized stretch code. They are considering sessions at the Snow Library Lifetime Learning program and elsewhere. They have talked extensively with other communities on the Cape who have already implemented new building codes. The information sessions will be tailored to their targeted audiences. Roger McDaniel will be talking specifically about the specialized code. Elizabeth will discuss the dissemination of this information. The earliest that the Snow Library sessions could be held is in September when their Lifelong Learning program starts.

In order to get to this point, the CC has talked with committees in Wellfleet and Truro to talk about how they informed their communities to make an informed decision. Elizabeth said that the CC has worked successfully with the Cape Cod Chronicle to publicize information about the

specialized code. She also said that they were initially planning a one session course at the Snow Library, but they had the flexibility to expand if warranted. Their committee can also do stand- alone sessions if needed. Roger noted that the Specialized code was one topic, and the Snow Library was one venue. There are other climate change topics and other venues to be considered.

Roger McDaniel met with the Outer Cape Climate Action Committee (OCCAC). They want to meet with each of the participating Outer Cape towns (Orleans, Eastham, Wellfleet, and Truro) in order to do a series of sessions. They plan to meet with each town on each relevant topic. Martin Culik volunteered to be the liaison person from our committee to the OCCAC and the OCAN.

Martin Culik distributed a list of topics and asked if these would be of interest to the general public. If so, how can we provide access to this information? This info was published by a Massachusetts organization (not specified) and is available online. Martin will follow up to see whether this company would allow us to access their website. Roger McDaniel made suggestions as to how we can make this information available to as wide an audience as possible. John Londa said that we need to educate Orleans residents on the impact of the Specialized code on various proposed building projects in Orleans. It was also mentioned again that this specialized code will only apply to new construction with areas of 4,000 sq. ft. or more. We need to reach out with this information to the Planning Board, the Financial Committee, the Select Board and the Building Inspector.

Martin Culik made a motion that this committee take the warrant about the Specialized Code to the Select Board at their next meeting urging them to put it on the next Town Meeting. Susan Chandler added that we want our committee to be on the various feasibility committees for current and future proposed building projects.

David Jacobson stated that we need to make sure that builders as well as the building committees get this information prior to any Town Meeting vote.

Roger McDaniel proposed that we communicate with our Select Board liaison to see if she thinks we are ready to present this at the Fall town meeting. He also noted that the specialized code for commercial structures was more rigorous than that for residential structures.

David asked about the timing of our education plans; is it realistic to get this education completed before the October town meeting? Elizabeth from OCAN responded that Wellfleet did this with similar time constraints.

Martin Culik's motion (again) 'The Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC) recommends that the Select Board place the Specialized Code on the Fall 2023 town warrant and that ECAC will pursue educational opportunities to support it in consultation with our Select Board liaison'. This motion was passed unanimously.

Roger is preparing presentation material on the Specialized Code. Susan Chandler recommended that our committee hear this prior to any external presentation.

Snow Library Representative

The Snow Library Building Feasibility Committee has requested that we provide a representative from our committee to be a member of their committee. John Londa volunteered to do this.

Finalization of the Orleans Comprehensive Plan (OCP)

A motion was made and seconded to approve the OCP submission. After some minor amendments to it, the OCP submission was approved unanimously.

Electing New Committee Leadership

John Londa was nominated for Chair, Hakim Janah for Vice Chair, and Roger McDaniel for clerk. These nominations were approved unanimously.

Summer Hiatus

The committee agreed that we have a lot of unfinished business on the table and that we should not take a summer hiatus.

John Londa agreed to invite the new Town Administrator to our July 13 meeting.

Roger stated that we may want to have additional meetings other than the monthly meetings. These meetings would be to further discuss Stretch Code presentations that he is preparing. The committee agreed to schedule a meeting for Thursday June 29 for this purpose.

Martin Culik distributed information regarding electricity suppliers, including competitive suppliers. He stated that these competitive suppliers target minorities and older customers. They initially offer rates that are cheaper than Eversource for a period. When this period elapses, the rates typically exceed the Eversource rates. There is a bill currently in the state house to ban these competitive suppliers from selling electricity in this state. He encouraged committee members to ask their representatives in the state house to support this legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm.