Town Of Truro Commonwealth of Massachusetts Energy Committee Minutes

October 21, 2022

The Energy Committee held a meeting on October 21, 2022, convened via GoToMeeting at 12:30pm. Attending were Brian Boyle (Chair), Mark Farber, Bob Higgins-Steele, David Spencer, and Lindsey Wilson, being a quorum of the Committee. Ronit Goldstein from Eversource was also present.

Eversource Update. Ronit introduced herself as Eversource's liaison to communities. She invited us to connect with her on any topic. Ronit then left the meeting.

Whole Government Approach. The committee discussed this initiative, which was intended to require that all parts of government for all processes will consider climate. The summary level statement of the approach was previously approved by the Committee, and we will work with the Climate Action Committee to further refine a more detailed approach.

Building Code. Brian circulated notice of an upcoming November 2 webinar by the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) on the stretch energy code. He'll post a notice on our website.

Net Metering Credits. Mark provided a briefing: negligible progress. Mark and David will contact Alex Lessin, the Town's Finance Director.

New Solar Projects. Bob and I provided a briefing. We have a fork in the road: finish the RFP process underway; or change tactic to Town-owned facilities which are now much more attractive due to recent federal legislation allowing government entities to capture the solar investment tax credit. We need to better understand the rules for SMART credits and Alternative On-Bill Credits (AOBCs).

Energy Staff. Bob discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant for a solar and electrification plan. The Committee discussed options for gathering more information. Mark outlined three phases of energy work for the Town: (i) add more solar wherever feasible, with either a leasing or ownership model; (ii) continue to implement energy efficiency in existing, remodeled, and new buildings, where Cape Light Compact should be able to provide auditing and incentive support; and (iii) electrify remaining fossil-fuel utilization in buildings and transportation, which will clearly be the hardest, most expensive, and longest lead-time.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2022 at 4:30p. The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.

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