

TRURO LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE (LCPC)

Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2018 - 5:00pm

Truro Town Hall

Members Present: Chris Clark, Morgan Clark, Ellery Althaus, Eric Jansen, Claudia Tuckey, Steve Sollog, Cally Harper (Absent: Jay Coburn)

Energy Section – begin discussion of data, goals, and actions. This discussion will also carry over into the next LCPC meeting.

Ms. Harper drafted a brief outline of each chapter in the LCP and described what general topics will be included in each subsection. The topics include: data (maps, statistics, existing conditions, existing resources, studies to date); “bright spots” (what has the town been working on that has been successful); opportunities (what are the problem areas, issues); future needs (what needs to be done in order to address the issues that were just described); goals and targets for achieving those goals (describe the goals, who is responsible for completing these goals, why the goals are important, timeline for reaching these goals); Action Plan including a description of completed actions, in progress actions, future actions (describe the action, provide an implementation schedule, describe possible funding opportunities, identify any data gaps and if so describe any future studies that need to be done); revisions to Local Bylaws (revisions will be based on needs and goals, description of how to incorporate the needs and goals into the bylaws); overlap with existing plans (current and future planning efforts, how does the LCP overlap with these plans); current collaborations with neighboring towns, governmental agencies, non-profit organizations.

Using this framework, Ms. Harper prepared a draft outline of the Energy Section. Mrs. Tuckey noted that the 2005 LCP does not have an Energy Section and therefore, the LCPC will develop the Energy Chapter from scratch.

The LCPC identified specific organizations, departments and groups that have data on energy topics, including the Truro Building Department, Mass Energy Insight, Cape Light Compact, US Green Energy Council, LEED, and the Green Community Report. Mrs. Clark mentioned that R values and stretch code data could be included in the Energy Chapter. She also asked if there are any passive homes in Truro and that data would be interesting to include. The Committee then discussed the definitions of LEED, passive homes, and energy zero homes.

The LCPC also identified Bright Spots related to energy. The group identified the following successful projects: Truro’s Green Community designation and the funding that comes with that designation, the demonstrated improvements in energy usage over time for town owned facilities, the town’s improved energy tracking system through Mass Energy Insight, recent town efforts to purchase credits from a roof top array, Town’s collaboration with

Cape Light Compact, the first ADU in town is an energy efficient unit and habitat homes have a solar array.

The Committee also discussed the opportunities and needs related to energy. The group discussed the following: there is a need for solar panels on the public safety facility because the building is in use 27/7, energy efficient vehicles for town departments and associated charging stations, and there are small buildings in town that function as storage sites during the winter and therefore need to be heated. These buildings could be winterized and shut down for colder months to save energy. The Committee briefly discussed the types of fossil fuels that we currently rely on – propane and oil. Mr. Sollog asked if wind energy would be included in the LCPC because there are bylaws on wind generation.

The LCPC also discussed the goals for the Energy Section: energy conservation, energy efficiency, use of renewable energy, manage energy costs, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and decrease reliance on fossil fuels.

The LCPC discussed possible action items for the Energy Chapter. The Committee discussed requiring green building practices for new residential and commercial projects, similar to what the Cape Cod Commission does for large projects over 10,000 square feet. Mr. Jansen noted that this action seems very logical and expressed interest in pursuing this in the future. Mrs. Clark asked if “green building practices” could be defined because as written, it seems vague. The Committee discussed public outreach about renewable energy through the work of the Energy Committee. Other actions include the following: have a member of town staff become certified or trained in Green Building practices, have the town set a goal to reduce energy emissions by a certain amount by year 2020, have the town sponsor a program to assist homeowners with energy efficient projects similar to Solarize Provincetown, place solar panels on the Public Safety Facility, winterize town owned buildings, and continue receiving audits from the Cape Light Compact. Mr. Jansen mentioned that the town could lead by example and set the targets for energy usage for residential and commercial properties. Mr. Clark described energy independent communities in Brooklinedale and Ithaca, NY. Ms. Harper also described the role of microgrids in communities.

The Committee also discussed engaging with local builders who have experience building energy efficient homes such as Art Hultin, Tim Dickey and John Augustus.

Submitted by
Cathy Harper
Town Planner

