

CAC 3/16/23 Meeting Information

Climate Action Committee

DRAFT

Meeting Minutes

2/23/23

Present; Carol Harris, Lili Flanders, Rebecca Bruyn, members, Fred Gaechter, alternate member

Public Comment – Clint Kershaw attended to listen in, however, no comments were submitted during the meeting.

Specialized Energy Code- Article for the Warrant

The Energy Committee drafted the Article for the warrant, submitted it to Town to review and asked us to review it for feedback and to then vote on it. Carol was told that even though it had already been submitted to Town that the changes can be made up until midnight. There was much discussion re how best to organize/format for the residents to better understand what the article is about. There were 2 pages to review, 1st page was the Article itself, however, it wasn't clear if the 2nd page would be published in the warrant. Some changes to both were made to ensure consistency of wording and to the organization of the content. Knowing that there was little time to make these changes, Rebecca moved to approve the document with the committee's approved changes, motion was seconded by Lili and approved by all 3 members present.

Carol to send a revised version to Brian to submit to Town.

Mill Pond Road

In response to public comment and the letter submitted byat last CAC meeting, it was decided to use this time to have a conversation about the Climate Action Committee's responsibility to the Town and to the Select Board. There was much discussion about basing our response and decision making to climate changes on adaptation not on what is the least expensive approach to the adaptation. We're aware of the impact our decisions will have on future including bearing the burden of cost on the future. Do all 4 options for Mill Pond Road proposal have an equal impact decreasing our carbon footprint or increasing sequestration? Is part of our responsibility to speak for the future? If so, how far into the future can we look to make decisions?

It was decided to hold on sending a support letter for the breach option to the Select Board until after the March 8th public informational sessions being held by DPW. Rebecca moved to hold on the letter of support until further discussion at the next CAC meeting on March 16th. Motion was seconded by Lili and all approved.

Next meeting

March 16th at 10:30

Respectfully submitted by,

Rebecca Bruyn

Draft article for the Pond Village Voice due by 3/25; needs photo

At a vote at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting, the Select Board was directed to form the Truro Climate Action Committee (CAC). The mission of the CAC is to investigate and make recommendations to the Select Board, residents, and businesses to decrease Truro's greenhouse gas emissions and to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

Currently, the CAC is focused on a warrant article for updated energy codes that require greener design for new buildings, writing climate-related articles for Truro Talks, collaborating with other boards and committees, as well as Outer Cape towns, on climate actions, and providing information sessions on what actions Truro residents can take to address the impacts of climate change.

The CAC welcomes new members to the committee. You do not need to be a full-time resident and you do not need deep knowledge of climate change. All you need is a willingness to learn and to work on climate-related activities. And if you're not quite ready to be a member, we welcome volunteers. For more information, go to <https://www.truro-ma.gov/climate-action-committee> or contact us at: climateaction@truro-ma.gov

Date: 3/12/23

To: Climate Action Committee

From: Carol Harris

Topic: CAC Position on Mill Pond Road

As I won't be at the 3/16 CAC meeting, I'd like to share some thoughts on Mill Pond Road.

The CAC is charged with making recommendations to the Select Board on the consequences of climate change. As the repairs/reconfiguration of the Mill Pond Road culvert address the impact of climate change – sea level rise and increasing frequency and severity of storms – I believe the CAC should take a position in a memo to the Select Board.

My recommendation is that the CAC endorse any sustainable action that improves water flow into Mill Pond and the adjacent tidal areas *and* minimizes future disruption to the Mill Pond environment.

I'd also like to continue adding a comment similar to this: Truro has faced climate-related decisions in the past, such as ceasing to restore the dunes at Ballston Beach at the expense of parking spaces, and will continue to make these decisions with greater frequency in the future. Given the impact of climate change and the limited resources to mitigate or adapt to these impacts, it becomes important for Truro to make decisions with a strong bias toward a sustainable future. In some situations, we may need to let go in order to invest in areas that are critical to human viability.