

Truro Climate Action Committee Meeting Agenda

When: Thursday, December 22, 2022, 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM

Location: GoToMeeting Videoconference

Invitees: Carol Harris, Emily Beebe, Fred Gaechter, Georgia Neill, Lili Flanders, Rebecca Bruyn, Stephanie Rein

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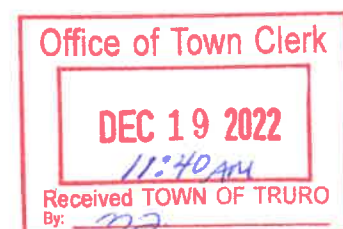
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1. Assign notetaker for this meeting
2. Public Comment
3. Review and approve 12/8/22 minutes
4. Truro Talks: identify February article and author – all
5. CAC report for Annual Town Report
6. Discuss and vote on Mill Pond Road letter
7. Request to SB to support Recharge MA -- Update
8. Update on 2024 budget -- Carol
9. Update on outreach and education, including stretch code – Rebecca, Lili, Georgia
10. Proposal on microgrids -- Lili
11. Update on septic in flood zones -- Fred
12. Updates on on-going actions:
 - Whole Government Approach
 - Climate Coordinator position
 - Time tracking
 - Electric chargers and vehicles
 - Update on Climate Action Plan
 - Other?
13. Proposed new actions:
 - If any...
14. Set Agenda for next meeting
15. Adjourn



CAC Meeting Information

12/22/22

Climate Action Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2022

Present: Carol Harris, Rebecca Bruyn, Lili Flanders, Georgia Neill
Guests: Bob Higgins-Steele, Stephanie Rein, Jarrod Cabral

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes 12/8/22	Minutes for 10/27 meeting approved, with minor adjustments to be made by Carol.	Approved by all. To be sent for posting on town website.
Public Comment	none	
Update on town budget by Jarrod Cabral	Jarrold talked us through the town budget, focusing on areas that are relevant to CAC. He mentioned that Truro was awarded the first grant from Cape Light Compact to make insulation upgrades to the safety Facility.	Ongoing
Truro Talks	The content of Lili's article for Jan. 2023 was approved, though Carol pointed out that it runs long. Subjects for future articles—such as the stretch code and town projects—were suggested.	Lili will make edits if the article is not accepted for publication as is. Further discussion of future articles at next mtg.
Request to SB to support Recharge MA	Carol & Rebecca are drafting a letter to the SB, requesting use of the Truro seal/support for being sponsors of the EV event.	Stephanie Rein will take request to the board.
Update on Outreach and Education	Rebecca & Georgia shared details about the Jan. & Feb. information sessions at the library. We discussed different ways to advertise. Katy Ward will help. Lili mentioned that she has been in touch with Fran Schofield from 5Cs about getting a speaker for the March session on the opt-in code. Not sure about availability of an expert, but video in development might be available.	Rebecca & Georgia will finalize advertising for the Jan. library session.

Microgrids	Lili gave a brief update on the research she and Bob are doing on microgrids.	Ongoing
Update on septic in flood zones	Fred was not at the meeting, so no update today.	Ongoing
WGA	Carol reported that Darrin looked at the WGA proposal and had some questions/requests for clarifications. Bob asked if the EC could have a copy of Darrin's questions.	Carol will work on draft with Brian to resubmit in 2023.
Climate Coordinator Position	Carol reported that Darrin is on board, but would like more specifics re: responsibilities and tasks. Carol suggested that we estimate the time we spend on CAC work, to help justify the need for a fulltime climate coordinator.	Carol will work with Emily Beebe on climate coordinator tasks. CAC members will estimate time spent on committee work in the past three months and/or begin logging work hours from 1/23-3/23.
Electric Vehicles	No progress with getting EV charging stations at Truro businesses, despite interest. Carol suggested we might discuss a different approach.	Rebecca and Bob will work together to make new contacts and develop more relationships.
Climate Action Plan	Carol incorporated changes from the last workshop mtg. into the working draft. She mentioned that other climate committees on the Outer Cape were interested in our plan. Once finalized, it could be shared.	Next workshop mtg. Monday, 12/12.
Other	Georgia reminded us of the plan to put ads for new volunteers in the Banner and Independent.	Georgia will place ads in newspapers in Jan. 2023.
Adjourned	Meeting ended at ?	Next mtg.: 12/22

Respectfully submitted
Lili Flanders

To: Truro Select Board

From: Truro Climate Action Committee

Date: December 13, 2022

Subject: Mill Pond Road Proposal

The Climate Action Committee supports the removal of the culverts from Mill Pond Road to improve the flow of sea water into the pond and adjacent marsh. The benefits of improved saltwater flow are:

- Salt marshes provide food, shelter, and nursery grounds for 75% of commercial and recreational fish in the U.S. as well as habitat for a variety of birds.
- During storms, marshes absorb flood water and wave damage by up to 20% or 1.5 million gallons of floodwater. This may help protect buildings and infrastructure near the marsh from flood water and sea level rise.
- Healthy salt marshes and coastal wetlands sequester and store carbon at a rate 10 times that of mature tropical forest.
- Salt marshes filter pollutants to help shellfish and seagrass which need clean water to survive. Plants decompose slowly and store carbon in the soil while the influx of seawater prevents the formation of methane. As marshes become less salty, plants decompose faster, store less carbon, and release more methane. Increased tidal flow can prevent this.
- Tidal restoration is an efficient and long-term action to store carbon and reduce carbon and methane emissions.

From a financial standpoint, continuing to spend money on repairing Mill Pond Road after storms, especially when sea level rise will eventually overtake the road, doesn't make good financial sense. It's just not a good investment. Improving the shellfish beds, environment for fish nurseries, and sequestration is a good investment for the future of Truro. And this can be done simply by improving the tidal flow.

Therefore, the Climate Action Committee urges the Select Board to vote to remove the culverts and a portion of Mill Pond Road.

For more information [about salt marsh protection/restoration](#), please visit:

- The Nature Conservancy: <https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/maine/stories-in-maine/why-salt-marshes-important/>
- The PEW Charitable Trusts: <https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2021/03/01/11-facts-about-salt-marshes-and-why-we-need-to-protect-them>
- Yale Environment Review: <https://environment-review.yale.edu/tidal-marsh-restoration-could-be-powerful-tool-fight-global-warming>
- WHOI: <https://nsgl.gso.uri.edu/whoi/whoig08003.pdf>

Table 3
Order-of-Magnitude Opinions of Probable
Construction Cost for Conceptual Alternatives

Conceptual Alternative	Order of Magnitude Opinion of Cost	-30%	+50%
Culvert Alternative No. 1	\$1.56M	\$1.17M	\$2.20M
Culvert Alternative No. 2	\$1.71M	\$1.49M	\$2.42M
Breach Alternative No. 1	\$795K	\$596K	\$1.13M
Breach Alternative No. 2	\$1.05M	\$785K	\$1.48M

This table is from Fuss & O'Neill. I've asked Jarrod if we can add a column for estimated lifespan and a column for estimated maintenance costs to this table.

Climate Action Committee 2021 Annual Report

Carol Harris, Chair
Bob Higgins-Steele, Vice Chair
Eric Mays, Member
Rebecca Bruyn, Member

Fred Gaechter, Alternate
Stephanie Rein, Select Board Liaison
Emily Beebe, Town Hall Liaison

During 2021, the Climate Action Committee (CAC) focused on ***outreach and education***. We believe that connecting with residents, part-time residents, and business owners is key to addressing climate change. Every constituent has unique needs and capabilities, and we plan to offer a variety of actions that are accessible to everyone.

We also believe that ***partnering*** with other groups will help us learn from others, save resources, and create a consistent message across the Outer Cape. While individual towns and organizations may have some differing goals, climate change doesn't recognize borders. What affects our neighbors affects us.

The CAC's biggest charge from the Select Board is to develop a ***community-wide climate action plan***. We began that plan this year by gathering information that we'll use to create the plan.

Outreach & Education

- Reached out to Truro businesses to sign up for Cape Light Compact's free energy audits for businesses. Twelve businesses signed on.
- Wrote monthly Truro Talks articles
- Interviews and articles in The Provincetown Banner, The Provincetown Independent, and Lower Cape TV
- Compiled a summary of Truro's green initiatives since 2004
- Staffed an information table at the Farmers' Market

Partnering

- Worked with Cape Light Compact to support energy programs
- Worked with Truro's Energy Committee on several initiatives
- Facilitated Outer Cape Climate Committees, a collaboration with Truro, Wellfleet, Eastham, and Orleans

Climate Action Plan

- Completed Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Conducted Community Input Meetings
- Conducted surveys to obtain input from residents
- Reviewed State and County climate plans
- Conducted a workshop with the Select Board
- Partnering with a local business to implement electric vehicle charging stations

The CAC currently has five members who meet twice a month, and most meetings focus on the status of on-going and up-coming activities. We're looking for new members and welcome volunteers for specific activities. If you think you'd like to join us but are not sure, one or two

of us will meet with you, explain the work, and answer your questions. We also recommend that you attend a meeting or two.

You can check us out on the Truro town website at <https://www.truro-ma.gov/climate-action-committee>

Questions? Contact Truro's Climate Action Committee at climateaction@truro-ma.gov