



**Minutes
Climate Action Subcommittee
September 17, 2020**

Elizabeth Taylor, Chair called the Climate Action Subcommittee meeting to order on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. using zoom and asked that all members turn the video on if available. She announced that all members of the Climate Action Subcommittee would be participating remotely, pursuant to Massachusetts Governor Charles D. Baker's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law dated March 12, 2020. The chair announced that all votes would be taken by roll call and all members participating remotely would be announced as roll call was taken. The Clerk called the roll and a quorum of members was established as follows:

Elizabeth Taylor, (Chair)	Present
Richard Roy (Vice Chair)	Absent
Jack McCormack, Jr.	Present (arrived @ 2:47pm)
Stephen Mealy	Present
Richard Elkin	Present
Tom Wilson, Alternate #1	Present
Jacqueline Etsten, Alternate #2	Present

Elizabeth Taylor called the Climate Action Subcommittee Meeting to order on Thursday, September 17, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m. She announced that both alternates would be serving as full members at today's committee meeting because there were two members absent.

Summary of Actions Taken/Votes

- **Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the August 31, 2020 Climate Action Subcommittee were approved.

Minutes of August 31, 2020 Meeting:

Upon a motion to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2020 meeting by Richard Elkin, seconded by Tom Wilson, the motion carried unanimously. Roll was called as follows: Elizabeth Taylor, Yes; Stephen Mealy, Yes; Richard Elkin, Yes; Tom Wilson, Yes; Jacqueline Etsten, Yes.

Climate Action Plan Purpose Statement: Discussion of a draft, overarching purpose statement for the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan ("Plan"), which will among other things guide the development of the Plan.

Kristy Senatori gave an update of the Climate Action Plan process using a power point slide. She described the work the CCC staff has completed up to this time, explained the stakeholder process, and the role of the Climate Action Subcommittee. Ms. Senatori also reviewed the Cape Cod Climate Action Purpose Statement outlined in the power point.

Mr. Wilson stated that the second bullet item, to identify and develop science-based policies, actions and strategies should be the first bullet item as he feels that it would read better.

Mr. Elkin would like to keep mitigation and adaptation as separate goals as to not confuse them. He also feels that this needs to start not with the RPP but with a policy that should include specific numeric goals and timelines. He advocates for the global warming solutions act timeline, which he stated is state law that has specific merits for 2020, will have them for 2030 & 2040 before the end of this year. He feels that this needs to be stated up front as the goal. The plan needs to have specific subplans for various topics one of which is transportation, the other is stationery and renewal energy usage.

Mr. Wilson stated that the comment to “adapt” belongs under resilience and Mr. Elkin stated that mitigate belongs under greenhouse gas emissions. Adaptation is about infrastructure and environment.

Ms. Senatori stated that staff appreciates feedback from the Committee and that they will take the suggestions and tweak some of the language. She stated that we are looking at developing science-based technologies and strategies with a large menu of options including mitigation and adaptation strategies. Ms. Senatori agrees with comments that Mr. Elkin mentioned regarding transportation and renewable energies which will be components of the climate action plan. She added that the commonwealth’s goals will be incorporated into our planning process and will be discussed further when we get to that point in the process.

Electric Vehicle Charging Station Siting Analysis: Discussion of the draft methodology used for and the results of a regional electric vehicle charging station analysis for potential charging station locations to support the expansion of a publicly available charging station network for use by electric vehicles on Cape Cod.

Steve Tupper presented a power point. The presentation included the 2018 Regional Policy Plan Climate Change Actions, Electric Vehicle Station Siting Background, Cape Cod Green House Gas Inventory – Summary of Emissions, the Types of Charging (Levels 1-3), a graph showing the project Electric Vehicle growth expectancy from 2013-2025, Cape Cod’s Charging Station Network, Future Charging Stations, Siting Considerations and reviewed the Existing EV Charging Station Interactive Story Map available on the Cape Cod Commission website . He explained that one of the issues with the charging stations is that most are privately owned or specific to Tesla vehicles as indicated in the Charging Stations by Location Type slide. The technology is advancing, and it is getting easier to find active stations.

Mr. Elkin confirmed that the date presented is for Level 2 and 3 charging stations followed by a discussion on the length of time it takes to charge a vehicle and these stations. It was stated that not all Tesla charging stations charge all types of vehicles. Further discussion included comments about the types of stations, where they could/should be installed and having the proper wiring to make those accommodations.

Mr. Mealy thanked Mr. Tupper for his presentation. He asked if the charging stations found will accommodate other types of vehicles than Tesla. Mr. Tupper stated that the stations are standardized. Mr. Mealy also asked what our next step would be. Does the Commission see imposing requirements which can be applied to new developments or renovations that require

review by the CCC? Mr. Tupper indicated that it falls within the Climate Action Plan and the strategies to implement them that will be reviewed in future meetings.

Mr. Wilson asked for clarification on the Charging Stations at Grocery Stores. He asked if the number indicated on the graph that states that grocery stores having a total of 27 stations is a combination of all grocery stores, noting that Tesla charges seem to be the majority. If you are traveling a long distance with an electric vehicle there are concerns over lack of charging stations. He feels that the fast charger stations should be the priority.

Ms. Taylor asked how you pay for charging your vehicle. Mr. Tupper stated that it depends on where and the type of charger and the type of package you may have purchased as well as networks that you may belong to and some are free depending on the location and duration of the charge. There was also discussion about the cost and whether solar panels have the capacity to charge a vehicle and it was explained that there are several factors in making that determination.

David Weeden asked if as a region if we have power purchase agreements creating green energy and tying these charging stations into solar canopies. Mr. Elkin provided his perspective on the power sources.

The Chair thanked staff for their presentation and moved forward to the next agenda item.

Solar Infrastructure Siting Analysis: Discussion of the draft methodology used and results of a regional solar infrastructure siting analysis which is intended to be used to identify appropriate potential sites for installation of utility-scale solar photovoltaic arrays on Cape Cod.

Heather McElroy presented a power point. Her presentation outlined the Solar Siting Goals, Solar Planning Process, and Utility Scale Solar. Ms. McElroy then turned the remainder of the presentation over to Jessica Rempel.

Ms. Rempel summarized staff's Solar Planning Process, reviewed existing solar data, and provided examples of Greenfield Solar Development, Landfill solar Development and Rooftops and Parking Lot Solar Development. She reviewed the Solar Siting Criteria, Key Components of the Built and Natural Environments, and Contextual Features. She then reviewed the Solar Screening Tool, who is on the Review Committee and noted the discussion from the August meeting and the Key Takeaways from that meeting.

The Chairs asked if there was a restriction from Eversource for creating solar generation by towns or individuals? Ms. Rempel stated that she doesn't have an answer at this time but will attempt to get the answer from Eversource. For the SMART program there are projects limited to 5 megawatts and the program supports 3,200 MW of solar development in the state. Ms. McElroy stated that an element that is a limiting factor is a data layer that has been incorporated into the map which is the hosting capacity of the utility network. There are limitations to how much power you can tie into an existing system at locations depending on how the electrons flow. Ms. Rempel added that they have heard from an Eversource Representative that for projects with limited hosting capacity, additional studies and upgrades may be required. She noted if you go to the Eversource Capacity Hosting Map, you will see a disclaimer with a lot of information and Eversource has a frequently asked questions page on their website.

The Chair also asked if there has been discussion about the ability to add solar over existing parking lots throughout the cape? Ms. Rempel stated that this gets into the shared solar business models

which our tool does not address. She encourages the towns to reach out to the entities involved and make the partnerships happen.

Mr. Elkin commented on the restrictions of capacity, stating that there is no limit, but can be costly. He added that towns are unable to use parking lots due to the economics requiring the federal tax credit and accelerated depreciation credits that the towns are unable to use because they don't pay taxes. A third party needs to own the system so that they can take advantage of the tax credits and accelerated depreciation.

Ms. Etsten stated that she is in favor of solar installation but feels that the installation needs to be monitored to not have adverse impacts to the environment such as cutting down natural vegetation which sequesters carbon dioxide. She feels that we need to look at the height above the ground to allow for clearing vegetation without using herbicides. She mentioned the use of solar panels in the historic districts as it's not pleasant visually taking away from the character of the district as well as the weight of the panels that the house may not be able to take. She also has concern about the lifespan of the panels. Mr. Elkin stated that panels last 25 years with an escrow agreement to remove the panels at that time as part of the contract.

The chair thanked staff for their presentations and moved forward to the next agenda item.

Stakeholder Process Update: Staff will provide an update on the request for participating organizations and stakeholders to participate in the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan's stakeholder process and selection of a facilitator to support that process

Erin Perry stated that staff is recommending the contract be awarded Consensus Bureau Institute (CBI) to facilitate the stakeholder process. They have significant knowledge of Cape Cod and the climate issues we are facing and have experience dealing with Climate Action Plans in other locations. Once the contract has been awarded, we intend to get moving on the upcoming meetings with the first being the municipal group meeting in the first full week of October, followed by the stakeholder group meetings. This will need to be confirmed with the facilitation team. The intent is to share the full schedule of meetings at the next subcommittee meeting.

Ms. Perry stated that there have been about 50 responses representing a broad geographic area. Each town has at least 1 stakeholder and they represent a variety of backgrounds and different stakeholder groups. We will keep the call open and continue to get others engaged. We are looking at the different stakeholders that have expressed interest and the areas that they are interested in participating in and how those groups can be broken out. This will help to identify gaps in representation and will help provide information for the initial meetings with CBI so that they can help ensure that we fill those gaps.

Ms. Perry added that we are planning to reopen the call for participating organizations to receive broad representation throughout the region. 7 letters of interest were received by 9/3/20 from non-profits. CBI will help to review the letters of interest to ensure broad representation. We have received letters since the call closed. Participating organizations will likely hold their first focus group session after the second round of working group meetings likely in mid-November. Within that same time frame is when we will encourage responses to a public survey which we are developing with the Donahue Institute, which will then be collected and analyzed. The survey is intended to inform the Climate Action Plan and will allow us to better understand public opinions regarding the actions included in the plan. We will continue to provide updates on the stakeholder process.

The Chair asked if we sent out letters to each town asking for representatives? Ms. Perry stated that communication went to town administration identifying that we will be holding these municipal working group meetings and would reach out with more information.

John Harris asked if there will there a survey conducted of all the towns on Cape Cod to determine what their individual contributions to climate change are, as they may all be different. Ms. Perry stated that we have identified areas where we would like to reach out to the towns with more detailed data and determine what information the towns have available, but we will continue to work on that. Mr. Harris expressed concerns over the towns implementing things from the Climate Action Plan and Ms. Perry explained the importance of Adaptation and Mitigation, this will be an ongoing process. Mr. Harris also asked if we considered sending out invitations to those who haven't respond that we would like to hear from. Ms. Perry stated that they have reach out a lot of organizations and will continue to do so as we continue the call for participating organizations and CBI will also assist with that.

Mr. Elkin asked what the role is for the participating organizations. Ms. Perry stated that first they will help to distribute the survey information with the assistance of the Donahue Institute and their second role is to convene focus groups facilitated by CBI to help refine the action plan.

The Chair referred to the emissions that were discussed earlier and the variety of places that they come from. She asked how we plan to tackle that such as organizations working with people make changes to their current systems such as gas/oil in their home. For people to make these changes is costly and feels that we need to come up with a way to incentive change such as subsidizing.

Ms. Senatori said that it's a great question. Staff is currently working on strategies using a matrix that will look at adaptation and mitigation. It is something that will be looked at across municipalities, organizations, individuals and homeowners and considered which will be included in the menu of options. The Chair stated that one of the greatest challenges that will be faced is getting individuals to make these changes because of the cost.

Ms. Senatori thanked the committee for their time and discussion today. Adding that as Ms. Perry mentioned, we are working together with the facilitation team and would like to get the committee back together around the time we will be hosting the stakeholder meetings to update you on the process as well as provide the committee with update on the number of initiative that are being worked on.

Mr. McCormack arrived at 2:47pm and apologized for his late arrival to the meeting.

Mr. Elkin stated that before we start the stakeholder process, we should determine the goal. Are we going to adopt goals such as greenhouse gas reduction and work toward them? He suggested that we reach a consensus of fixed goals in line with the state law goals for 2030, 2040 and 2050 of NetZero.

Ms. Senatori stated that the first place we started today is talking about the purpose statement of the Climate Action Plan. We want to reach out and work with the Communities and Stakeholders and determine what makes sense to include in our Climate Action Plan for Cape Cod. The purpose statement will serve as a guide for the stakeholder process. When we set goals, we want to make sure that they are set with significant and broad representation from the communities, local municipalities and inline with the state processes within our jurisdictional determination.

The Chair asked if staff planned to tweak the statement as discussed today. Ms. Senatori will bring this to staff to make changes that are deliberate and makes sense in the overarching context.

Mr. Elkin again suggested precise numeric goals that align with state law be put into our overall goal which he mentioned earlier.

Ms. Senatori stated that at one of our meetings, will look at the legal and jurisdiction piece which is important in setting goals in the Climate Action Plan.

The Chair thanked staff for the information presented and then asked for a motion to adjourn.

Meeting Adjourned:

Upon a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:42 p.m. made by Stephen Mealy, seconded by Tom Wilson, the motion carried unanimously by roll call. Roll Call: Elizabeth Taylor, Yes; Jack McCormack, Jr., Yes; Stephen Mealy, Yes; Richard Elkin, Yes; Tom Wilson, Yes; Jacqueline Etsten, Yes

Respectfully submitted,


Elizabeth Taylor, Chair, Climate Action Plan Subcommittee

10-15-2020
Date

Documents used/submitted at the September 17, 2020 meeting

September 17, 2020 Climate Action Plan Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
DRAFT Minutes of the Climate Action Plan Subcommittee Meeting, August 31, 2020
Power Point Presentation by Cape Cod Commission staff