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**Minutes**  
**Cape Cod Commission Climate Action Subcommittee's**  
**Attendance at Energy Stakeholder Working Group**  
**November 18, 2020**

The following members of the Climate Action Subcommittee attended/participated in the Energy Stakeholder Working Group, a meeting held and facilitated by Michelle Ferez of the Consensus Building Institute, held virtually via the Zoom platform, (as allowed by Governor Baker's order dated March 12, 2020), which meeting began at 9:00a.m.

The following Climate Action Subcommittee members were present, their presence announced at the beginning of the meeting:

Dick Elkin

Tom Wilson (left meeting at 11:33am)

Jack McCormack

Other attendees were as follows:

Stacie Smith, Consensus Building Institute

Michele Ferez, Consensus Building Institute

Erin Perry, Cape Cod Commission, Deputy Director

Heather McElroy, Cape Cod Commission, Natural Resources Manager

Jessica Wielgus, Commission Counsel

David Still, Cape Cod Commission, Digital Communications

Patty, Daley, Cape Cod Commission staff

Sarah Colvin, Cape Cod Commission Communications

Chris Powicki

Ronit Goldstein, Eversource

Gordon Starr

Johannes Raatz

Judith Holt

Kari Parcell, Barnstable County, MassDEP SET

Lauren Sinatra, Nantucket

Lee Burns

Lilli-Ann Green

Liz Argo, CVC

Ryan Curley

Steven Casey, Eversource

Walter North

Lew Stern

Summary of Actions/Votes Taken: No votes were taken by the climate action subcommittee

## Summary of Discussion:

Michelle Ferenz of the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), introduced the meeting. Sofia Soto Reyes of CBI explained how to participate using the Zoom platform. Erin Perry thanked everyone for their participation, introduced Cape Cod Commission staff in attendance and announced that members of the Climate Action subcommittee participating were Dick Elkin, Jack McCormack and Tom Wilson. Michelle Ferenz reviewed the agenda with the group and then reviewed their requests for participation, including having a respectful dialogue with creative solutions that are results oriented. She also indicated there are a range of constituents and encouraged attendees to seek inputs from others.

Erin Perry, gave a recap of actions taken in preparation of the Cape Cod Climate Action Plan. Using a powerpoint presentation, she displayed a purpose statement, which was as follows:

*To identify, study and monitor the causes and consequences of climate change on Cape Cod as a basis to guide and develop science-based policies, strategies and actions that governments, businesses, organizations, and individuals can pursue to improve the region's resilience to climate hazards; and mitigate climate change on Cape Cod through reducing net regional greenhouse gas emissions in support of the framework and targets established by the Commonwealth.*

She then reviewed the process to date. She reviewed that there was a database of goals, actions and strategies that were being reviewed for climate action; other work included a GHG inventory, a cape wide survey, a student ambassador program, mitigation and adaptation strategies, a legal and jurisdictional analysis, economic impacts modeling and stakeholder engagement. She reviewed the timeline for stakeholder outreach and engagement, including subregional municipal group meetings, stakeholder groups in the areas of natural resources, housing and development, transportation and energy, with an added group to be in the area of Communication and Education. They were also asking outside groups to hold focus groups. They expect follow up on their role in implementation in January. She reviewed meetings held in October, November and December to reflect understanding problems, then identifying solutions and taking action. She reviewed a slide that summarized the feedback from the stakeholder workgroups, including what is known about GHG impacts and what are strategies and actions. Some issues identified included that the need for affordable housing is an opportunity; development and redevelopment of housing should be in areas away from hazards and include energy efficiency measures and other climate-forward building methods; that there is an important intersection between local food production, land use, and energy; and that grid reliability is a concern and consideration that should be given to a more dispersed structure. In the area of mitigation, responsibility is more personal in this area and changes to individual building energy use must be supported by local and state action; education is needed to adjust expectations and assumptions around reducing energy use; there is an opportunity to make the Cape more walkable by increasing density in activity centers; and to consider alternatives in home heating.

Ms. Perry then said she would pause for questions.

Walter North asked about the purpose statement.

Chris Powicki commented that the purpose statement was for the planning process rather than the plan itself.

Dick Elkin stated that the purpose statement could be arranged somewhat. He suggested the sub bullets in the purpose statement could be reordered so final one is the lead, adaptation as the second purpose with the main bullet following.

Lilli-Ann Green had a question about the survey to the public, in who would it go to and what would the questions be? Ms. Perry noted that the survey would be conducted by the Donahue Institute through a scientific method that would ensure statistically significant results with a focus on polling in all four subregions of the Cape.

Dick Elkin noted that education should go to the general public in addition to student ambassador education.

Lew Stern noted it was important to integrate planning with racial, economic, health, social and other justice issues and ensure that populations are not disproportionately negatively impacted and none are left behind.

Erin Perry said she would take this back to the team and that the plan will have more added which will clarify some of these questions.

Michelle Ferez directed attendees to a slide on her screen in the powerpoint presentation entitled "Criteria for Prioritizing Actions". She identified the following: (1) Feasibility - Science-based and data-driven actions; Responsive to context; and Clarity/ease of implementation pathway. (2) Impact - Efficiency/effectiveness of action; Achievement of multiple public benefits; Planning for future conditions; Ability to adapt to changing conditions; and Measurability. (3) For Cost, affordability - is the solution affordable, and what is the funding source. (4) Equity - does it meet the needs of all citizens; providing for vulnerable populations; and who pays?

Ms. Ferez then asked the group what is missing from this discussion. She asked people to look at the list on her slide in the powerpoint. Chris Powicki asked who defines what is affordable and whether the cost of action is included.

Sofia Soto Reyes from CBI reviewed with the group the question, which was which of these criteria are most important to you? The group identified feasibility - effectiveness of the actions taken, science based and data driven actions, equity - providing for vulnerable populations, meeting the needs of all citizens, and cost- affordability. Ms. Ferez noted that none of the criteria would be thrown out, but the results would help focus the planning work going forward.

Kari Parcell asked if we know the impact the Cape can have on GHG emissions relative to statewide, nationally and globally.

Erin Perry said the legal and jurisdictional analysis will assist in understanding how to support the state's framework.

Dick Elkin asked why the criteria didn't include a data driven approach. Michelle Ferez from CBI pointed out that it was included.

Using a powerpoint, Heather McElroy reviewed the Climate Action Plan Strategies and Actions. She indicated that adaptation and mitigation actions provide a context for conversation and planning work.

She referred to a slide which summarized that in the Climate Action Plan Strategies database included 5 focus areas, 14 goals, 44 strategies and 131 actions. She reviewed the hierarchy of goal, strategy, action and steps. She said staff did a literature review, included work of the Cape Cod Climate Collaborative's path to Net Zero and stakeholder input. She noted that not everything heard during the stakeholder process is in there yet, but will be added.

Ms. McElroy then referred to a slide containing an Energy goal, strategies and actions. The goal is to increase the production and use of clean local energy. Strategies are pathways to achieve that goal, including generate cleaner energy and greener power, modernize and optimize the grid, identify and utilize carbon offsets, and achieve Green Communities designation in all Cape towns. She also referred to a slide entitled Community, which recognizes the need to engage and educate the community, which stakeholders throughout the process have indicated is important.

Michelle Ferez of CBI then said next they would be asking the group to comment on a slide titled Energy: Goal, Strategies, and Actions – November 17, that summarizes the goals, strategies and actions and asked people to examine it to tell them if anything was missing. She asked do the actions add up to creating clean power?

Dick Elkin noted that we as individuals don't generate power; rather it is what we buy, how do we purchase the energy. He stated that municipalities buy their electricity as a consortium. Within the contract, there is an ability to buy a green version of energy and that we need to ask for this in town budgets.

Lilli-Ann Green said it is important that alternate energy sources pursued locally need to take into consideration the health and safety of people who live there.

Michelle Ferez of CBI asked for some examples. Ms. Green said wind turbines.

Dick Elkin said a core problem was that in the original sessions, staff had identified transportation and housing as the higher areas of concern for GHG emissions reduction. He said we need to discuss these. He also said the best way to decrease GHG emissions is to decrease energy use, but we will not be going to zero use of energy, which is why we should use renewable energy.

Mr. North agreed with Mr. Elkin's comment on the structure of the discussion.

Lilli-Ann Green said to get to reduce GHG emissions, energy still does need to be produced.

There was a meeting break at 10:34am. The meeting resumed at 10:44am.

Using powerpoint slides, Heather McElroy said she wanted to address the question related to the question of how the stakeholder meetings were addressing GHG emissions and the sectors of transportation and the built environment, including housing. She noted that in addition to the Energy workgroup, there are also concurrent workgroups in the areas of transportation and housing/development. She reviewed a slide entitled Housing/Development and reviewed strategies and action items related to both residential and non-residential buildings. Staff recognizes that there is overlap and there is intent to have conversations in all the working group focus areas. She noted the electrification of vehicles would be addressed in the next workgroup discussion of Transportation.

Judith Holt asked about the scope. She suggested that the emphasis should be on existing buildings.

Lew Stern asked about historic buildings. Ms. Holt noted that older buildings face south and are better built than those built in the 1960's and 1970's.

Dick Elkin said a goal should be to eliminate GHG emissions from the built environment rather than to reduce it. He said for older houses to change the way they are heated and to look to airsource heat pumps with green electricity.

Francie Williamson agreed that Ms. Elkin's comment was a goal, but that not everyone can afford to retrofit their homes with heat pumps. Another obstacle is that older homes may have asbestos in their insulation, which increases the cost.

Judith Holt suggested looking to the Cape Light Compact to fund these conservation efforts.

Liz Argo said that changing heat to electrical resources means a need for increased resources.

Ms. Ferenz moved the discussion to the next area of focus and asked Ms. McElroy to introduce it. Heather McElroy showed the group a slide on "Modernizing and optimizing the grid". She noted that comments had been made on risk of battery storage, on increased E mobility, and understanding the potential demand and capacity needs and plans for grid updates.

Sofia Soto Reyes from CBI showed a slide on screen entitled "Energy Goals, Strategies and Actions - November 17" and asked the group what was missing from the text displayed.

Dick Elkin stated there are the three levels of charging stations. He noted it would be important to re-examine the placement of future charging stations. He stated most people would charge at home and that there should be charging stations on highways.

Lew Stern said it would be important to incorporate into the discussion for tourists who come 4 months of the year an eco-tourism component.

Keri Parcell said during seasonal times on Cape, are people concerned with a clean environment.

Lew Stern said we should set expectations for those interested in keeping the Cape special.

Dick Elkin said within 4-5 years it would be more cost effective to buy an electric car.

Lew Stern said rentals should make it easy to use electric cars.

Kari Parcell said there is a need to model behavior by having accessibility to these these things.

Dick Elkin said multi family housing should have the electric hookups for charging stations.

Jack McCormack said there is an app that shows where charging stations are on the Cape.

Steve Casey from Eversource said they are in the process of trying to work with customers who want to host a charging station. He also suggested a revision on the slide as it related to Eversource and battery storage.

Dick Elkin stated that to make batteries cost effective, need variable rate charging as an option.

Steve Casey said they should promote rate tariffs that accommodate time – of -use rate in relation to electric vehicles.

Johannes Benz said in terms of data, there are opportunities we have for energy production in educating that it can be done. We should talk about steps we've done and obstacles.

Lew Stern said he is impressed with the breadth of discussion, both incremental and transformational change.

Steve Casey from Eversource noted that they are working to bring the right people from the company involved and that cost is a factor that needs to be considered.

Chris Powicki said Eversource and National Grid are critical participants in the climate action planning.

Liz Argo noted that towns are paying their share of the grid upgrades as they install PV storage.

Michelle Ferez asked if there was any public comment. None was made.

Erin Perry thanked CBI and the attendees for their feedback. She said they would be refining their database and sharing it with everyone.

The meeting concluded at 11:54 am.

**Documents used at the November 18, 2020 meeting**

November 18, 2020 Climate Action Plan Subcommittee Meeting Agenda (which reiterates the agenda of the Energy Stakeholder Group meeting)

Power Point Presentation by Cape Cod Commission staff

Slide of Michelle Ferez from CBI entitled "Energy – Goals, Strategies and Actions – 11/17"

Slide of Sofia Soto Reyes from CBI entitled "Energy G-S-A steps 11/17"

Respectfully submitted,

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Elizabeth Taylor, Chair, Climate Action Plan Subcommittee

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Date