

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee
Minutes, May 24, 2021**

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Dr. Paul Canniff, John Solomon, Rob Wilson

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members NOT present: Peter Doyle, Chair; Derek Vannier

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom)

Gordon Starr Town Council Liaison; Jane Ward, citizen; Cynthia Cole, citizen; Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order:

John Solomon called the May 24, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure & Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:04 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:

Approval of minutes postponed until June 14, 2021.

Old Business:

Members inquire whatever happened with that building commissioner meeting with the state. That was the one that Commissioner Brian Florence was going to attend at the state Building Commissioners Meeting and present his building code, he presented on it was May 11 they listened to him. They said that they've had some similar proposals before and they've turned them all down. And they turned him down in a six to one vote, there is an appeal process. The town manager has to decide what to do there. But the other alternative is to go back to the stretch code. They don't want different codes out there.

What we really need are some builders who use the stretch code to come explain the use of the stretch code. People who say that the stretch code is okay, is workable. Find builders who have worked in other towns using stretch code.

Members talk about contacting local businesses, encouraging them to compost their food waste. Especially encouraging businesses that produce more than half a ton a week to join a food waste composting program.

John Solomon suggests an informal meeting with Tom McKean to find out what the rules are for restaurants as it pertains to food waste. We would like to see more food waste going to compost. In a way that would work best for the businesses so that businesses feel like part of the solution. The town has nothing to do with any disposal of restaurant waste. It's totally private, and it goes right to the transfer station. The incentive could be a green business; they could help with climate change and helping to, improve the soils of Cape Cod.

Gordon Star tells members he bought a Chevy Bolt last week, it's 100% Electric. It's about 260 miles for range, bought it at Quirk Chevrolet The cost about 40,000, but there are lots of rebates, they had sold five the day before. And there were only four left. Can't imagine they have any left. Yeah. It is it 24,000 after tax credits.

Members discuss Cape Cod Commissions Climate Action Plan. One of the things is to have a stretch code goal for net zero. The State is working on a net zero building code, deadline one and half years. It's really worth pushing forward.

Members discuss asking David Anthony to come back and talk to them about the Green Community's progress a broad sort of outline of how things are going; we still have to work on the vehicle policy. The policy affects very few vehicles in town. The other thing is that that we also need to work with the school committee to decide whether their vehicles will be under this policy. There are a lot of buildings and schools that could use some energy reduction. The energy reduction plan, which, Margaret saw, I talked to her the other day said that they've basically got the outline and they've got 15% We can save in the next five years, in terms of physical, mechanical, implementation, and the other 5% is behavioral. So it's teaching people to not idle to turn the lights off.

Jane Ward tells members she lived in Germany with the Air Force in about 2002. Almost 19 years ago it was a 500 euro fine to idle. You weren't allowed to go outside in the winter and warm up your car by turning it on, five or 10 minutes ahead of time 500 euro fine. The only thing I can figure out is that fuel over there at that time was three or four times as expensive as it is here we need to have, \$4 or \$5 per gallon gas, and maybe not overnight but over a few years, that would change behavior, very significantly. That was amazing what an impact it had even in oil, you know, oil glutinous Texas It was very impressive. That really got people's attention.

The last town council meeting we talked about the sewer assessment, Mark Milne, Finance Director had suggested we set the limits and basically get the high limit and \$17,000 for having the pipe run in front of your house. Beyond the \$17,000, there are also hookup charges to hook your house up to the street, and that can run anywhere from \$5,000 to \$12,000. And then is there is a quarterly fee. I think it ends up being about \$400 per year for basic house. Sewer bill is based on how much water you use. There were some people on the committee who thought that \$17,000 was a good number and other people did not; one person thought that zero was a good number. Everybody should pay. The pipe goes past the front of your house, the benefits are there. The list of benefits includes but not limited to your house is worth more, you get a brand new road in front of your house. You get reliable down sewers. You get to finance it over 30 years. You are released from the constraints of Title Five and you can add more bedrooms to your house, even if you're on a 10,000 foot lot, you can have four bedrooms. You don't have to pump your septic. There are a lot of benefits to having sewer go by your house. The new road in itself is worth 10,000 \$12,000 dollars in some cases.

Members discuss the need for somebody to be a liaison between public body and stakeholders. Someone that can go into a group can go into neighborhoods and answer questions or be a middle person a public relations person between the engineers and the citizens and answer questions.

Jane Ward mentions indoor air quality I know we've worked on a letter and sent that to the council and didn't get much response to it but that's been quite a bit in the news over the last four to six weeks where the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has actually now said pandemic has been primarily spread through the air, they've reversed where they were a year

ago. Air quality is even more important and as we start to open up. You know, we don't want to go back to dirty air indoors we've got to be encouraging entities public buildings, schools as well as our own homes to have the best situation for indoor air; I'm going to be moderator for another indoor air symposium that Cape Cod Technical Council is hosting on June 18, 2021. I'm going to be interviewing the fire chief from Sandwich John Burke who's been quite a leader on Cape Cod for the whole pandemic and is has been testing some air filtration systems in some of their buildings, I don't know too much more of the details of what he plans to speak about but I'll share with everybody, what that information is every everybody's welcome to join the Zoom meeting. I think we still need to be thinking about cleaning indoor air as we go forward into the orange of the fall.

Are you aware of the concern about natural gas, being a problem particularly aggravating asthma? A friend of mine just sent me an article about it. Indoor air in general is two to five times more polluted than outdoor air, and we're fortunate here on the cape and that our outdoor air is relatively clean. But as you get into more densely populated towns, in areas that have air blowing from coal fired power plants, it becomes even more of a problem. California aims to phase out all gas stoves and gas heating furnaces. Switch to electric appliances. The induction stoves are much, much different than your regular ancient electric heat up coil stove. Induction stoves, cook the food, they don't heat up the dish, the pot. It's the food that heats up. That is part of energy efficiency, future and better indoor air quality.

Somebody sent me a picture of a boat off of Craigville Beach doing core samples before the cable comes in for the wind farm.

Recycling subcommittee plans to meet with PJ Kelliher via zoom. We wanted to just talk to PJ about how he feels we should approach this, understand that we are going to be team players. I think it's important to ask him. Offer more help. Try and figure out how to step up the program and get people to be more interested in recycling.

Next Meeting: June 14, 2021 5:00PM | Department of Public Works | Remote Zoom Meeting

Upcoming Meeting: July 12, 2021 July 26, 2021

Adjourn

May 24 14, 2021 Infrastructure and Energy Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:02PM.

Documents and Exhibits

Handout 1: Agenda, May 24, 2021

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes May 10, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski