

## **Infrastructure & Energy Committee Minutes, October 4, 2021**

### **Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present:** (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair, John Solomon, Vice Chair, Dr. Paul Canniff, Jane Ward

### **Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members absent:**

Rob Wilson, Clay Schofield

### **Others in Attendance:** (On Zoom)

Gordon Starr Town Councilor Liaison, Cynthia Cole, Citizen, Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant.

### **Call to Order:**

Peter Doyle called the October 4, 2021 meeting of the Infrastructure & Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:05 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

### **Approval of Minutes:**

Postponed

### **New Business**

None

### **Old Business**

Cynthia Cole agrees to become a member of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee. Cynthia Cole will contact Cynthia Lovell via email to start application process.

Peter Doyle discuss proposal to the Town Council for a climate change resiliency reduction and sustainability position. The initial paragraph starts off we are asking Town Council to consider creating a climate change coordinator. Then we move on to the Town Council has already declared and passed a climate emergency resolution, and they did that back in November last year. The next paragraph describes what the Town has done. It describes what the State has done and the governance deadlines and percentages that the State needs to meet, to get down to zero emissions. Letter goes on to call out the efforts of the Town on their installation of solar and wind and other initiatives that the Town is taking to be energy efficient. Here we're acknowledging yes, the Town has done a significant amount of work. However, we have more to do. The next paragraph after that is really a job description, and it tells what we expect of this position who is going to oversee and coordinate and follow up on who is using what energy where, how much we're generating in solar and wind, et cetera. Prepare reports to Town Council on how the Town is doing towards meeting the reduction deadline. Has Town reduced its emissions by 50%? Not sure how anybody's going to know that unless there's a position tracking the data.

These types of positions don't necessarily pay for themselves but they bring in a lot of savings to the Town, there isn't a grant that pays for the salary but the energy savings alone saves enough money to theoretically pay for the position. There is a recommendation in the letter that that money be captured and put into the budget for that position. There is a warning of peril. All the things that are going to

happen as written in a report put out by the Cape Cod Commission that predicts \$33 billion loss in revenue due to sea level rise. The report goes through all these different perils that the Cape is facing and not only the Cape but everywhere on the planet. As a committee trying to convey that there are many more foreboding statistics as the threat to the air we breathe and the water we drink, trying to make it a we type situation. We pronoun makes it more everyone's problem. Final paragraph is suggestion that this position be autonomous. The proposal being that the position works out of the Town Mangers office. Not located in a department somewhere it will lose its influence dramatically. Committee members are asked to review the comments and get back to Peter Doyle. At this point, committee needs to settle on a document.

Peter Doyle will rework the letter a little bit, taking in the various ideas from Jane and Rob and Gordon send it out again. Once that is complete would like to take it to the outside world and there's two ways to do it, we can just give it to Gordon Starr as liaison to the Town Council, or we can each individually take it to a Town Councilor. Peter Doyle proposes the idea and asks for feedback/reactions. Peter Doyle suggests getting more organizations to back it maybe even other town departments. It is suggested sending it to Daniel Santos in the Department of Public Works, Elizabeth Jenkins in the Planning and Development Department to see what they say. Peter Doyle would like to have it out there as opposed to just on the Town Council's docket.

Committee discusses Cynthia Cole's marketing plan. The committee recognizes Cynthia Cole's efforts and thank her for her service.

Cynthia Cole's marketing plan includes improved signage at the Transfer Station, development of informational flyer to hand out and development of recycling handout that can be given out with every sticker purchase. The recycling handout would emphasize food waste collection. The commercial and institutional establishments marketing plan describes an initial focus on restaurants in Main Street Hyannis where there's an association. The idea is to have Black Earth come and pick up food waste from Main Street restaurants and then hopefully we can expand that throughout the rest of the Town.

Cynthia Cole sent draft marketing plan to all members. She will finalize the plan and then committee can decide where to go from there. The idea is that anybody can sign up for compost collection by Black Earth any time. It's just about getting the word out and contact information for Back Earth. Eventually, more and more restauranteurs will talk to each other and recognize savings and feel good doing good things for the planet. Then committee can start focusing on getting more of the residents to bring their compost to the Transfer Station. Recycling subcommittee will start to discuss how to have a better situation at the Transfer Station right now compost is not for the faint f heart. Infrastructure and Energy Committee members would like to make the experience a little more pleasant, and get the word that composting is good for the environment. Committee discusses ideas such as shavings, have people dump food waste and cover with shavings then everyone's part of that, and it makes it all cleaner for everyone. Need to survey people at the recycling area to get people's attention. Normalize recycling. It is normal to recycle your plastic bottles and so it should be normal to recycle your food waste.

Green Communities application: The energy reduction plan is ready. David Anthony is in the process of talking to the School Committee, and the airport, to make sure that they're involved and to find out whether they need to take a vote to sign on or agree to participate. The energy reduction plan will need to go to Town Council. Building codes are changing constantly the State is developing a net zero building code. Once the base code changes then the stretch code changes they seem to change at different times. It is a moving environment.

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Cynthia Cole states there is concern about the proposed building on Wilkens Drive, where the Town wants to approve a zoning change that will increase the density and the height. To allow construction of an apartment building that will have 272 units. They see it as being industrial area, but density is an issue. The Town will have to somehow approve the zoning change and if that happens, it will go to the Cape Cod Commission. This building will be there in 2025. A wish list should include sufficient electric vehicles charging stations. One thought is either put electric charging stations in or pre wire so the infrastructure is there when people are in need. New building should have photovoltaic cells, electric panels, or at least have the roof, facing south whether you put panels on now or in the future.

Concerns regarding the billion dollar sewer system currently under construction are discussed and the potential to be maxed out before it's built. People may not realize how much development is coming down the pike. Because the sewer system coming in, it's going to allow so much more density and there doesn't seem to be any thought going into the planning. No one is looking at what this is going to mean for example how many restaurants are going to want to build on route 28 in Centerville or in Independence Park because now it is has sewer. What is this going to mean for the sewer system, what is this going to mean for traffic.

Those are just some issues that need to discuss as society transitions away from fossil fuels and as buildings that are going to be there for 30 to 50 years are built. Don't want to have to retrofit buildings later.

Thursdays October 21, 2021 is the Town Council meeting where the Wilkins Drive residential building will come back up for the Town to discuss the zoning change. It wasn't something that the Town had ever planned to do. But the developer came in and requested four stories. Developer wants to go from 35 feet to 55 feet, and wants to put in twenty seven units per acre instead of eight per acre.

### **Adjourn**

Peter Doyle asks for a motion to adjourn meeting. **Motion** moved Dr. Paul Canniff to adjourn the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:03 PM, 2nd by John Solomon; three members in attendance voted affirmatively. Jane Ward left meeting early.

**Next Meeting:** October 11, 2021 5:00PM | Remote Zoom Meeting

**Upcoming Meeting:** October 25, 2021, November 8, 2021, November 22, 2021, December 13, 2021, December 27, 2021

### **Documents and Exhibits**

Handout 1: Agenda, October 4, 2021

Handout 2: Draft Infrastructure and Energy Committee Minutes August 9, 2021

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski