

BARNSTABLE
TOWN CLERK**Infrastructure & Energy Committee
Minutes, June 8, 2020**

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Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members present: (On Zoom)

Peter Doyle, Chair; John Boyle, Vice Chair; Christopher Peterson; Derek Vannier; Rob Wilson

Others in Attendance: (On Zoom) Gordon Starr, Town Councilor; Jane Ward, Citizen; Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant; Michelle Sgarlat, Barnstable Climate Action Network (BCAN); Devon Harrington, Barnstable Climate Action Network (BCAN)**Call to Order:**

Peter Doyle called the June 8, 2020 meeting of the Infrastructure & Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:04 PM. The meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting was held remotely to avoid group congregation.

Approval of Minutes:Peter Doyle asks for motion to approve minutes of March 9, 2020 Meeting. **Motion** moved by John Boyle to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. Derek Vannier 2nd the motion. Five members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.**New Business:**

Michelle Sgarlat, Chair of BCAN, presented a Climate Emergency Declaration for the IEC's consideration. The Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MassCAN) proposes that every town in the State declare a climate emergency (see Cape Cod Times Articles labeled exhibit 3 and Exhibit 4 attached). The BCAN proposed that the following language be supported by the IEC:

*Town of Barnstable Climate Emergency Policy:**The Town of Barnstable recognizes that we confront a climate emergency which is driven by human energy consumption and land use practices.**Global climate change, rising seas, deadly storms, dangerous heat waves, acidifying oceans and melting ice sheets, pose imminent threats to the health, safety and economic security of the residents of Barnstable.**The Town of Barnstable therefore adopts as its policy the objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time.**The Town Manager will direct that all officers and departments of the Town take such measures within the scope of their respective responsibilities and authority as may be necessary and prudent to facilitate such policy and objective.*Peter Doyle asks for motion to support the Climate Emergency Policy. **Motions** moved by Rob Wilson support the Climate Emergency Policy. Five members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Infrastructure & Energy Committee

Minutes, June 8, 2020

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Peter Doyle asks for motion to approve minutes of March 9, 2020 Meeting. **Motion** moved by John Boyle to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2020 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting. Derek Vannier 2nd the motion. Five members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

New Business:

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Town of Barnstable Climate Emergency Policy:

The Town of Barnstable recognizes that we confront a climate emergency which is driven by human energy consumption and land use practices.

Global climate change, rising seas, deadly storms, dangerous heat waves, acidifying oceans and melting ice sheets, pose imminent threats to the health, safety and economic security of the residents of Barnstable.

The Town of Barnstable therefore adopts as its policy the objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time.

The Town Manager will direct that all officers and departments of the Town take such measures within the scope of their respective responsibilities and authority as may be necessary and prudent to facilitate such policy and objective.

Peter Doyle asks for motion to support the Climate Emergency Policy. **Motions** moved by Rob Wilson support the Climate Emergency Policy. Five members in attendance voted affirmatively, motion carried.

Old Business

Members discussed the status of the MassEnergyInsight (MEI) program for the Green Communities application. They were informed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed and Margaret Song of Cape Light Compact is actively gathering data.

Peter Doyle and John Boyle will speak with David Anthony, Director of Property and Risk Management, for an update on Green communities.

Members discuss proposing possible climate action language to be added to the Town Council Strategic Plan. The following language presented previously as language to be included in the Town Council Strategic Plan except amended by John Boyle to include that phrase that "The Town Manager".

"The Town of Barnstable adopts as its policy the objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time. The Town Manager will direct that all officers and departments of the Town take such measures within the scope of their respective responsibilities and authority as may be necessary and prudent to facilitate such policy and objective."

After discussion, Derek Vanier makes a motion to accept the language as written above, Christopher Peterson 2nd the motion it was voted to approve language proposed to be added to the Town Council Strategic Plan. Rob Wilson starts discussion no amendment made. Vote: Passes 5 Yes

Peter Doyle asked John Boyle to prepare a letter to the Town Council to transmit the above language as voted on by the IEC. John agreed to do this by the next meeting.

Peter Doyle suggests putting the Municipal Single Use Plastic Bottle Ban on hold.

Peter Doyle suggests putting the Styrofoam ban put on hold for future discussions.

John Boyle suggests members prepare rebuttal discussion regarding Green Communities and adopting stretch codes.

Members discuss updating IEC web page. Add a carbon footprint calculator. Christopher Peterson will research easy to use calculators and report back to committee. Jane Ward will look at cost of a bottle of water information to add to the web page and report back to the committee.

Gordon Starr informs committee members that the Board of Health voted to remove the free recycling bylaw.

Peter Doyle suggests Kari Parcell from Barnstable County to present on recycling at the July 13, 2020 meeting.

Upcoming Meeting:

July 13, 2020, July 27, 2020, August 10, 2020, August 24, 2020, September 14, 2020, September 28, 2020, October 12, 2020, October 26, 2020, November 9, 2020, November 23, 2020

Adjourn

Motion moved by Derek Vannier to adjourn the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:32 PM, 2nd by Christopher Peterson, all in favor. Vote: Passes 5 Yes

Documents and Exhibits

Exhibit 1: Agenda, June 8, 2020 Meeting

Exhibit 2: Draft Minutes of March 9, 2020 Meeting

Exhibit 3: Cape Cod Times Article posted February 24, 2020

Exhibit 4: Cape Cod Times Article posted March 7, 2020

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski

**Infrastructure & Energy Committee
Minutes, March 9, 2020**

Infrastructure & Energy Committee Members

Peter Doyle, Chair
John Boyle, Vice Chair
Christopher Peterson

Derek Vannier
Rob Wilson

Others in Attendance

Gordon Starr, Town Councilor
Britt Beedenbender, Town Councilor
Nate Collins, P.E., Assistant Town Engineer
Cindy Dabkowski, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

Peter Doyle called the March 9, 2020 meeting of the Infrastructure & Energy Committee (IEC) to order at 5:02 PM. The meeting was held in the DPW Conference Room located at 382 Falmouth Road, Hyannis.

Approval of Minutes

Peter Doyle asks for motion to approve minutes of February 24, 2020 Meeting. **Motion** moved by Derek Vannier to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 Infrastructure and Energy Committee meeting with edits. Rob Wilson 2nd the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Business

Peter Doyle shares information from the Cape Cod Home Builders. On average, home buyers are willing to pay an additional \$8,728 upfront on a home in order to save \$1,000 a year in utility bills, according to National Association of Home Builders (NAHB's) recently released study, *What Home Buyers Really Want (2019 Edition)*. The study is based on a survey asking recent and prospective home buyers (people who bought homes in the previous three years or are planning to do so in the next three years) about what they want in a home and community. (See attached)

Members discuss the letter to Town Manager, Mark S. Ells regarding MassEnergyInsight (MEI) release. They were informed that the request has been put on hold until a Green Energy Committee is formed and reviews Town of Barnstable's Green Energy status.

Peter Doyle and John Boyle met with David Anthony, Director of Property and Risk Management for the Town of Barnstable. David Anthony presented an update on Green Communities to the Town Council. Town Council asked the Town Manger to look into the Green Community application for the Town of Barnstable. David Anthony stated that there would be a committee formed to discuss Green Energy. John Boyle suggests that several members of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee be placed on that committee. Committee may be formed once the Building Commissioner findings are reviewed by David Anthony.

Members begin discussion of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee's (IEC) approach to climate change. John Boyle showed the language to be proposed to the Eastham town meeting and after discussion the following language was agreed to as the basis for further discussion:

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June 8, 2020
Exhibit 2: Draft Minutes of
March 9, 2020 Meeting

“The Town of Barnstable adopts as its policy the objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time, and directs that all officers and departments of the Town take such measures within the scope of their respective responsibilities and authority as may be necessary and prudent to facilitate such policy and objective.

Additionally, John Boyle proposed the following language that had been presented previously as language to be included in the Town Council Strategic Plan:

Support efforts to respond to climate change (both adaptation and mitigation). Adaptation is defined as the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects and mitigation is defined as human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance the sinks of greenhouse gases.”

Peter Doyle suggests that John Boyle send the statement to all committee members to review and provide comments at the next IEC meeting.

IEC members discuss the need for an energy/environmental position and decide to develop an advisory letter to Town Council (TC). Peter Doyle states he will develop a draft letter and present it to the committee at the next meeting.

IEC members discuss Cape Light Compact Main Street Initiative. The Compact and its vendor(s) will be visiting businesses on Main Streets in Hyannis and Osterville. They will perform a brief energy assessment and install instant savings measures such as screw-in LED lamps, programmable thermostats, faucet aerators and more, all at no cost. There will also be enhanced incentives available for additional measures that are recommended during these assessments. IEC members like the idea of targeting area businesses.

Peter Doyle discusses delegating issues to specific members. Each member could take on an area of interest to keep the committee informed. Areas of interest could include electric vehicle charging, recycling, Green Communities application, and many more.

Peter Doyle states that the date for Lisa Sullivan’s Green Community presentation to the Town Council is on hold until a committee is formed and gathers data.

Peter Doyle discusses the Municipal Single Use Plastic Bottle Ban. Britt Beedenbender informed members that the Town Council asked the Town Manager to draft a Municipal Single Use Plastic Bottle Ban ordinance for the Town Council to review. It was agreed that the IEC does not need to do any additional work on this at this time.

Old Business

Styrofoam ban put on hold for future discussions.

Board of Health regulations regarding recycling put on hold to a future meeting. Gordon Starr agrees to reach out to Health Division Director, Thomas McKean to get additional information. Discussion of Rob Wilson’s letter to Patrick J. Kelliher, Transfer Station and Recycling Division Supervisor, is postponed to next IEC meeting.

Peter Doyle informs the IEC members of a seminar by Barnstable Climate Action Network (CAN) on March 16, 2020 from 6:00PM-8:00PM at CapeSpace Conference Center located at 100 Independence Drive, Hyannis, MA 02601.

Peter Doyle informs the IEC members of a Climate Change seminar on March 18, 2020 from 6:00PM-8:00PM at the Mid-Cape Conference Center located at 22 Mid Tech Drive, West Yarmouth, MA 02673.

Upcoming Meetings

March 23, 2020
April 13, 2020
April 27, 2020

May 11, 2020
June 8, 2020

Adjourn

Motion moved by Derek Vannier to adjourn the meeting of the Infrastructure and Energy Committee at 6:32 PM, 2nd by John Boyle, all in favor. Motion passes unanimously.

Documents and Exhibits

Agenda, March 9, 2020 Meeting
Draft Minutes of February 24, 2020 Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Dabkowski



Cape coalition asks towns to declare 'climate change emergency'

By **Doug Fraser**

[@dougfraserctt](#)

Posted Feb 24, 2020 at 7:56 PM

Updated Feb 25, 2020 at 7:50 AM

Increasingly, town meeting voters are faced with petition articles asking how they stand on issues that go beyond town budgets and schools — national issues such as immigration, gun violence and plastics pollution. At annual gatherings this spring, voters will be asked about something of global import: whether they are willing, as a town, to declare a climate emergency and commit to reducing human-caused greenhouse gas emissions to zero.

“Cape Cod is one of the hot spots for climate change,” said Richard Delaney, who sits on the board of directors of the Global Ocean Forum and is president of the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown. Delaney also serves as president of the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, which recently joined the original petitioners, 350 Cape Cod, to form a coalition of environmental, faith, science and environmental lobbyists backing the emergency declaration, known as the Cape Cod Climate Emergency Initiative.

Thirteen Cape towns already have received signed petitions to place the emergency declaration on the warrant for spring town meetings, said Barry Margolin of 350 Cape Cod. Barnstable and Bourne are expected to have their petition articles submitted next month.

In 2008, scientists estimated that 350 parts per million average atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration was considered the limit to preserve the world roughly as we know it. By 2018, we'd hit 407 ppm, far surpassing the previous high mark for the past 800,000 years of 300 ppm.

While each petition differs slightly in language, Margolin said the message is the same: the acknowledgement that climate change is driven by human activity and has consequences such as rising seas and deadly storms, and the resolution to

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Exhibit 3: Cape Cod Times Article
posted February 24, 2020

Representing the Global Ocean Forum, Delaney attended the historic Paris Agreement meetings in 2015, where representatives of 196 countries pledged to take measures that would keep the increase in average global temperature below 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit above preindustrial levels and agreed to take steps to limit the temperature increase to no more than 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit to avoid some of the worst consequences.

President Donald Trump served notice last year that the U.S. would withdraw from that agreement effective Nov. 4, the day after the U.S. presidential election.

“When I came back from the Paris climate accord meetings people asked what can we do locally,” Delaney said. He noted that states such as Massachusetts — which remained committed to those climate change goals including net zero emissions by 2050 — and cities across the U.S. continued to implement programs to reduce emissions.

Delaney helped found the Climate Change Collaborative in 2016, with the goal of coordinating the efforts of regional organizations to address the problem. The group helped set emission-reduction goals for the region: a commitment to 100% renewable energy use by 2050 and preservation of natural resources that store carbon.

The group also wanted to educate residents, and Delaney thought the emergency declaration petition was one of the most innovative ways to bring the issue down to the level of individual voters.

“I’m hoping this will focus a lot of discussion among citizens in their towns to take action, to show that local citizens and towns can be an effective agent of change,” he said.

Follow Doug Fraser on Twitter: [@dougfraserccct](https://twitter.com/dougfraserccct).

adopt the policy objective to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions to net zero “at the earliest technically and economically feasible time.” It directs town officials and departments to take actions to achieve that goal.

Margolin, who is an attorney, said the petitioned article was worked out with the help of some town officials and administrators.

“We got clearance for the language,” he said. “They (town departments) aren’t asked to do anything they aren’t already tasked to do.”

Delaney said the Cape is at risk. The ocean at our doorstep is warming faster than 99% of the world’s oceans, and familiar species such as cod and lobster are fleeing to cooler waters. Everything in the ocean — from the smallest copepod to the right whales that rely on them for food — is affected. Increasing storm strength, erosion, sea level rise, increasingly frequent downpours and heat waves already have affected the Cape and Islands. Recently, scientists on the United Nations’ International Panel on Climate Change released a report that showed the next decade would be critical in reducing greenhouse gas emissions to avoid the worst-case climate change scenarios.



CAPE COD TIMES

Opinion

Cape voters: Take a stand on climate change

Posted Mar 7, 2020 at 3:01 AM

It would be difficult to argue that there are many other places in the world with more at stake when it comes to climate change than coastal communities. In addition to having a front-row – and ever closer – seat to rising sea levels, oceanside towns and cities are also often more subject to the increasingly powerful storms and weather events associated with climate change than communities farther inland.

Cape Cod and the Islands, therefore, has much to lose should climate change continue unabated. This spring, voters across the Cape may have the opportunity to make their voices heard on the matter, as town meetings across the region consider a petition article that would, if enacted, declare a climate emergency and agree to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions in their respective communities to zero. A coalition of groups has already submitted petition articles in 13 Cape towns and expects to finalize articles in Barnstable and Bourne by the end of the month.

The effort, spearheaded by the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative and 350 Cape Cod, brings together environmental, faith, science, and environmental leaders as part of a larger group called the Cape Cod Climate Emergency Initiative.

The group's efforts to enhance understanding about climate change are as noble as they are timely. Studies indicate that the waters in our region are warming at a faster rate than virtually anywhere else in the world, and marine scientists warn that this dramatic change in water temperatures is having a negative impact on the native species we are accustomed to seeing off our shores. These shifts have both environmental and economic consequences that will likely become only more pronounced over time.

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Exhibit 4: Cape Cod Times Article
posted March 7, 2020

affect real change. Furthermore, the argument that just because someone else is not doing something means we shouldn't do it falls flat on the face of it; just because others are behaving in an irresponsible manner does not mean we have license to behave foolishly as well, especially with nothing short of the future of the planet hanging in the balance.

Proponents of the measure report that they have worked closely with Cape town officials and administrators to craft language that would not require town departments take on new responsibilities. Although the language varies a bit from town to town, the basic message is relatively simple: It acknowledges that human activity drives climate change; that these changes result in both higher sea levels and dangerous storms; and that the goal is reduce greenhouse gas emissions produced by humans to zero as soon as it is both technically and financially possible.

The petitions notably omit any sort of timetable for such efforts, perhaps a considered move to build support and reduce concerns that such restrictions could negatively impact a town's budget or economy. Unfortunately, even as an indefinite time frame may be one of the strongest selling points of the articles, it is simultaneously one of its greatest weaknesses, as it lets towns off the hook to commit to the sort of immediate and dramatic change that most climate scientists agree is necessary if society is to pull back from the brink of irreparable environmental damage.

Still, members of the Cape Cod Climate Emergency Initiative should be praised for their efforts, and their dedication to not sit back and simply wait for change to happen. We hope town meeting voters this spring will realize they have an opportunity to vote in favor of these measures and put their communities on the right side of history.

Efforts to address climate change on the local level have become only more important as the federal government has continued to pull back from tackling the issue in any meaningful way. Although some states, including California and Massachusetts, have committed to mitigating their environmental footprints, the Trump administration has done everything in its power to essentially ignore the problem, removing references to climate change from government websites and announcing that the United States would withdraw from the historic Paris Agreement, which committed nearly 200 nations from across the world to working together to keep global temperatures in check.

Some have claimed that the United States should not sign on to the Paris Agreement because it cannot afford to put itself at an economic disadvantage. That argument basically suggests that if other countries, such as China, refuse to be signatories to the agreement, that the United States would be foolish to subject itself to any restrictions.

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The argument falls flat, however, when put up against the damning reality facing us. Simply put, the United States still commands a certain degree of respect on the world stage, and if it chose to throw its support behind the measure, it could