

Minutes from Climate Action Committee Meeting December 4, 2024

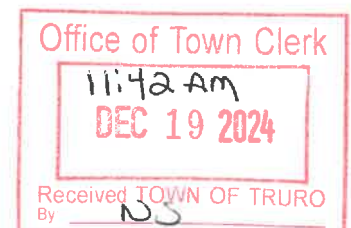
Members and others attending: Lili Flanders, Chair, CAC, Alex Limpaecher and Mark Gebhardt, Members CAC, Georgia Neil (volunteer), Emily Beebe (Health and Conservation Agent), Courtney Warren (Assistant Health and Conservation Agent). Bob Higgins-Steele (Chair, Truro Energy Committee). No remote attendees.

1. **Assign Note Taker:** Mark Gebhardt
2. **Public Comment:** no attendance from the public
3. **Discuss Whole Government Approach, Climate Summit, and future collaboration and joint goals with Energy Committee Members**

Bob Higgins-Steele led a discussion of a report he submitted to the CAC from the Energy Committee (EC). We discussed the Whole Government Approach (WGA) to climate change which recognizes that effective climate leadership requires the integration of climate mitigation and adaptation into daily operations, decision-making, and planning for our municipality. There is more information on the WGA on page 59 of the LCP ("In 2022 Truro's Climate Action and Energy Committees adopted a Whole Government Approach to recognize that effective climate leadership requires the integration of climate change mitigation and adaption into daily operations, decision-making and planning for the municipality." "The stated purpose is to reduce the community's contribution to climate change by ensuring that the town's energy infrastructure is cleaner, leaner and more resilient. The goal is to prepare mitigation actions and adaption strategies that respond to the effects of climate change before they occur."

Reference: https://www.truro-ma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif9766/f/uploads/april_19_2024_local_comprehensive_plan_2.pdf

Truro Town Government is committed to this and all boards will focus on three aspects: Governance, Education and Resilience. The discussion was around the goals and actions approved by CAC on 5/26/2022 and the EC on 9/11/2023 and are included in the document provided to the CAC for this meeting. It was noted that the State of Massachusetts also takes a Whole Government Approach. A talk on this by Melissa Hoffer (climate agent of the State) was attended by Lili Flanders and was excellent. She also spoke at the Mass Municipal Assn last week. The State sets greenhouse goals for every 5-year period. If goals are met they are pleased, if not the Legislature MIGHT take action (although the intent is that they SHALL take action).



The Local Comprehensive Plan (which discusses WGA; see web reference above) was discussed. The LCP is “a planning tool used to guide the growth and direction of Truro while balancing a wide variety of needs, including protection of environmental resources, economic growth, quality of life and community character”. It is non-binding. There was the belief that the WGA should be binding, but it will take some cultural change. One concern that has been raised by the Town Manager, Staff and the Select Board since the CAP was presented to the Select Board in August of 2023 (by Carol Harris, former Chair of the CAC) is that current staff cannot take on more tasks than they already have, but they do take into consideration climate issues in all of their decisions. Furthermore, the new Climate Coordinator will aid this effort greatly.

We all agreed that a Climate Summit should be held in 2025 (incidentally, such a summit was approved by the SB in 2023 when Carol made her presentation of the CAP.) We decided that this ideally will be held in May or June of 2025 and led by our new climate coordinator.

We will plan a hybrid meeting in early 2025 with more members of the EC (some members live off-Cape in the winter).

Future goals of the collaboration with the EC were briefly discussed and will be dealt with in more depth at future combined meetings. The need for a Climate Stabilization Fund was discussed with the example of how a town in Denmark used clean energy sources for funding.

4. **Review and approve minutes from 11/6/24 meeting:** Minor wording changes were added/edited and the revised minutes were approved unanimously.

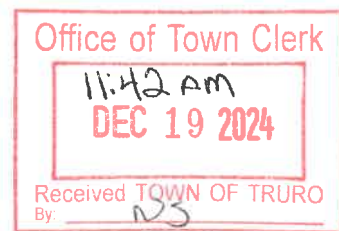
VOTE: 3/3 members in attendance.

5. **Discuss/set meeting schedule for Jan-June, 2025:** We voted unanimously to have 2 full meeting/month and make the 1 hour “catch up” (used primarily for discussion of programming become a full meeting. We may need to expand the second monthly meeting to 2 hours depending on workload. .

VOTE: 3/3 approved.

Dates agreed on are generally the first and third Wednesdays on the month but to accommodate for holidays the dates chosen are: to Jan 15 and 29, Feb 5 and 19, March 5 and 26, April 2 and 16 (Town meeting is April 29), May 7 and 21, June 4, 18.

6. **Discuss and decide if we should add Climate Summit to 2024/2025 goals:** See above. This was unanimously approved. **VOTE 3/3 approve.**



7. **Summary of 11/20 discussion of Climate Action Plan document; further review/discussion.** Alex submitted a updated/improved version of the CAP where he was able to add significant areas of data and is continuing to update this. It was briefly discussed and will be looked at in more detail at our next meeting when members have had more time to digest his substantial contributions to the plan/document. He was heartily thanked for his efforts.

Alex will be collecting data on greenhouse gasses. Eric Mays – prior CAC member. He knew how to get numbers.

8. **Discuss and decide on future library presentations:**

January – Lili will ask Stephany from Wild Care to see if she can do her presentation on pesticides and rodent control and how that affects wildlife. We discussed if this was in line with climate change and agreed that it was.

Lili will contact Board of Health and the Conservation Commission to see about HRP's on the warrant. Other possible topics include:

March/April – articles on the warrant, (flood plains)

Coastal resilience – mitigation and adaptation (Wellfleet and Provincetown)

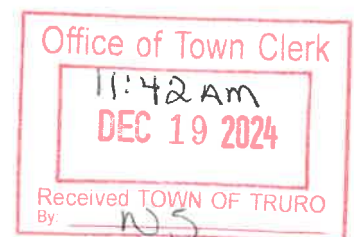
Revisit home solar installation and heat pumps in a user-friendly way for Truro home owners.

June – meet the Climate Action Coordinator

9. Discuss budget needs. Tabled.

10. **Update on divestment, Pesticide & Fertilizer HRP's. And ongoing projects.**

Georgia had a discussion with Alex in the finance office about where the town invests it's money. There are two buckets: 1. Retirement funds for employees which is operated by Barnstable County. 2. Other monies from taxes, etc, that are invested. She is going to inquire about where these funds are invested as a first step to learning if the town is investing in green companies/entities. We will also look for meetings of OPEB (Office of Post Employment Benefits) Trust meeting and ask about green investments. Lili will also bring this up with the TM at a coffee meeting and at the Committee Chair's meeting.



11. Update on Climate Coordinator hire. The new climate coordinator has been selected. Chris Palmer has been offered the position and is currently negotiating the terms.

12. Adjourn: 12:00PM

Documents:

- 1. 24-12-04-CAC Agenda**
- 2. 24-12-04-packet DRAFT MINUTES 11-6-24**
- 3. Energy Committee Packet EC and CAC meeting 12_4_24**
- 4. Truro Climate Action Plan – DRAFT modification by Alex**

Respectively submitted,

Mark C. Gebhardt

Vice Chair, Climate Action Committee.

