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NS**Truro Climate Action Committee- Minutes Wednesday May 21, 2025, 10:00AM**

Town Hall, Type: In-person (ZOOM provided for members who could not attend)

Attendees: In person: Lili Flanders, Chair, Chip Cornell, member; Georgia Neill, Volunteer
Chris Palmer, Climate Action Committee Coordinator.

By Zoom: Mark Gebhardt (Vice-Chair) Benoit Allehaut, Paul Holt, Alex Limpaecher
(Members)

Assigned Note Taker: Chip Cornell

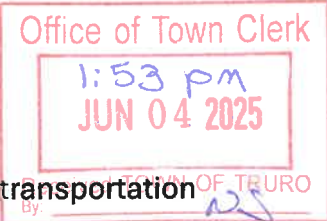
Public Commentary: None

Approve Minutes: From 5/07/25: The minutes were amended to state that Truro as a Climate Leader is preparing a grant application for \$3.5 million for renovations (HVAC) at Truro Central School along with other grants totaling \$ 5million. The minutes were then accepted by unanimous vote.

Climate Coordinator Update

1. Charging Smart Program: The funding for this State of Massachusetts program appears to still be available. Truro is planning to take part in this program. This program will provide for additional public charging sites for EV's. Truro is considering ending free charging at the Town Hall chargers
2. The Town is considering changes to the building code that will make newly constructed houses charger ready.
3. The RFP for the solar project is ongoing. It has been submitted to the town legal department for review.
4. During this report Benoit Allehaut noted that the US Senate is considering a bill to reduce credits for solar installation. A House version of the bill is debating elimination of residential solar tax credits. Community solar appear to be ok until 2028. This is obviously bad news for any solarization planning. This adds impetus for moving forward quickly with our land fill installation. The tax credits would be likely scheduled to be lost by end of the calendar year. In Massachusetts community solar projects are still available and provide an alternative if federal support for residential solar incentives are lost. The Mass Clean Energy website lists the community solar project companies that are available. Unfortunately, the date that is reported to get the Tax Credits is when Eversource approves the installation rather than when the construction is completed. This will delay approval for most residential projects and may jeopardize tax credits

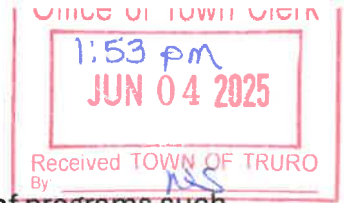
Discussion of Climate Action Plan (CAP):



At the 5/7/25 meeting committee members were tasked with reviewing the transportation sections of the Climate Action Plans for the State of Massachusetts and Cape Cod. Chris Palmer was also able to access plans from several communities around the State.

Members reported on their reviews of the transportation plans of various towns to capture similarities that could inform Truro's climate action plan. Topics that were discussed included:

1. Creating a document that is easy to read and that appeals to the town citizenry. It was noted that several action plans from the State as well as the Cape were extremely long. Preparing a well written and concise plan that is made appealing by illustrations and tables was agreed upon. Committee Chair Flanders was enthusiastic about Marblehead's plan that begins with a letter to the community from the future thanking the present community for the efforts they made. Their plan provides for community and citizen invitations to doable actions. Chris Palmer suggested recruiting artists in the Truro community to help illustrate the plan to market it and give it broad appeal. It was also recommended that the plan be clear in distinguishing between short and long term projects. Short term projects need to be simpler and less costly.
2. Transportation for Truro will have to address private vehicle usage as well as potential improvements to public transit. In addition the promotion of alternatives including electric bikes, electric golf carts and bicycles will be needed. It was suggested that the plan should include maps of available bike paths and routes to encourage their use.
3. In discussing promotion of public transit it was noted that a key need is making public transit services more visible and appealing. Educating the public about public transportation opportunities and services are needed. Improvements in bus schedules to reduce waiting at stops would be essential. Educating the public as to available options such as the flexibility in getting drivers to divert for pickups that are close to the normal route. Enhance the bus shelters to make them more usable and to serve as sources of information regarding public transportation.
4. It was agreed that safer bike lanes and walkways are needed. Discussion focused on the challenge of Route 6 as a deterrent to use of bikes or walking. Route 6 is controlled by the State so we can't make changes as a town. However, creating safer lanes and potential cross walks need to be addressed in the action plan.
5. The plan should encourage the growth of the use of electric vehicles. Addressing common concerns of the public regarding purchase of electric vehicles through educational materials may be helpful. Concern regarding the higher cost of EVs could be dispelled by promoting the cost savings realized by changing from fossil



fuels and the infrequent maintenance required by EVs. Promotion of programs such as Smart Charging will lead to additional savings by charging at low usage times of the day when electricity rates are less.

6. Committee member Benoit Allehaut recommended that the action plan be informed regarding The Truro public's perceptions. He is encouraging surveying the public to understand why people do what they do. He would encourage survey of public opinion to determine preferences around transportation. He encourages an in-depth survey to better understand the level of knowledge and perceptions of the town citizens.
7. Committee Chair Lili Flanders ended the discussion with a summary. The summary included the idea that the Climate Action Plan will benefit from doing a survey to understand community ideas. The committee needs to explore ways to gather information about community ideas regarding climate action and provide an assessment of the level of knowledge of the community regarding the impact of climate change. She also noted the committee needs to find out the barriers to achieving our goals. Our goals are clear but achieving them is the challenge.

General Updates/Next steps

1. Alex and Chris will reformat the climate action plan and finalize a draft of the transportation section.
2. Chris will work on looping in the Bikes and Walkways committee for their input regarding the CAP.
3. The committee has discussed the upcoming schedule of meetings. We will continue meeting every 2 weeks.
4. Next meeting Chris and Alex will present the draft for transportation and we will start to move onto the buildings section again using the plans from other towns and State. Committee members will review the plans for discussion next meeting.
5. Cape Light Compact presentation provided excellent information regarding electrifying homes. They presented resources available to the community
6. Truro Talks regarding fire is coming out and Solar for homes is being worked on.

Next meetings are June 4 and June 25th. July 9th and the 23 of July. Lili will propose those dates by email. August will be the 6th and 20th. September will the 3rd and 17th.

Also for next meeting we need to plan the Library sessions for July and August. Please bring ideas for future library sessions to the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:56 AM