

MARCH. 5, 2025 Climate Action Committee Minutes

When: Wednesday, March 5th, 10 am- Noon

Where: Town Hall Historical Meeting Room

Type: In-person

Attendees: Lili Flanders, chair; Mark Gebhardt, vice-chair; Alex Limpaecher, member; Georgia Neill, volunteer; Chris Palmer, Climate Action Coordinator; Tom Bow, vice chair, Open Space Committee

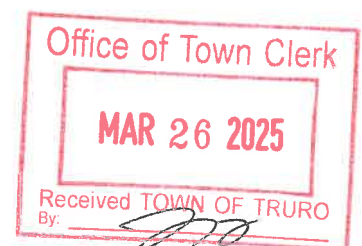
1. Assign notetaker: Gebhardt

2. Public Comment: none

3. Tom Bow: Fire safety concerns – Vice Chair of the Open Space Committee, Liaison of Truro Conservation Trust Committee.

- One charge of his Committee is to inventory Town Owned Land. Concerns on fire safety, especially Nat Sea Shore. Two forums coming up (one is our Library meeting; the other is a fire forum planned by the OSC for July or August). They will support us in our efforts.
- Georgia has interviewed the Fire Chief and 2 others for conservation and recreation. An article Georgia wrote will be coming out in the Truro Town Newsletter. Georgia is less worried after interviews. More moisture, sand and other issues put us in a safer environment than California.
- Truro properties (but not individual homes) can get a fire assessment from Fire Dept. for free Residents are asked to coordinate assessments with neighbors, so fire personnel isn't over-taxed.
- DCR has pamphlets for residents and part-time residents.
- There are fire resources if a fire occurs, with help from off Cape if needed.
- We have "Ponds" 3000 gallons – inflatable pools for fires and can truck water into wooded areas.
- We don't have brush trucks (Ptown has plans to get one).
- There is an outdated fire plan for Cape and Islands (2012). Just got funding to update.
- We get 2-3 brush fires/year (last big one was on Longnook). Ptown at more risk since buildings are so close together.
- Truro is responsible for fires in the Nat Seashore which is 70% of our land. We are not equipped or trained to deal with a major forest fire. Some risk from brush and fallen trees due to climate change.
- Nat Seashore has one 3000 gal truck (somewhere) but no personnel to run it.
- CAP has a section that might coincide with fire safety. We dovetail with many committees. The Open Space committee overlaps with the CAP in fire safety. At least they can link to our CAP. This would fit with our Whole Government Approach.
- Will check to see if the municipal buildings have been assessed for fire safety.

3.1. Minutes from the 2/19/25 meeting approved (3/3 vote)



4. Climate Action Coordinator Update.

- Energy Comm went before Select Board to present the solar plan on the landfill site near Transfer Station. SB keen on the plan/model. They agreed with 2 warrants:
 - one is about putting solar on the landfill.
 - The second is to borrow up to \$5M for ownership (we own the land and can either lease the equipment (less revenue) or buy the equipment (3.8-5M to own, more revenue, and get rebates). We probably won't lease the land to a solar company.
- Chris spoke with the Chief Sustainability Officer in Worcester about whether our numbers are correct (they own a lot of solar). They have been making a ton of money.
- Green Communities: competitive grant for heating and cooling school - Denied. Can reapply in April. Chris will get details of why we failed. It was put together at the last moment. Better planning might help.
- Decarbonization road maps for the town overall and each municipal building. Useful for grant applications (these are on the Town website). We have most of the information that granting agencies are seeking.
- Green Leaders designation: if we get that it will open us up for more and bigger grants. Will hear about that next month.
- Paul Holt would like to join the CAC (he'll have to resign from the EC) – he feels CAC is a better fit for his interests and expertise.

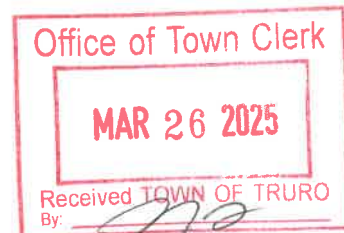
5. Share CAC project ideas for March library event

- Chris will introduce himself and discuss his role and the WGA,
- Chris will talk about Green Communities and Green Leaders.
- Then visionary mode: workshop to get ideas about what Truro should look like at 2050. Post-its, etc. Grow all our food? Net zero (no fossils fuel cars)?
- Other ideas?
 - Public orchard. Other areas to grow our own food.
 - Bike lanes from Ptown to Wellfleet and to town centers
 - Sailboats with solar panels to go between Truro and nearby towns like Orleans, Provincetown, Hyannis, etc.
 - EV's for taxis, more frequent buses.
 - More dirt roads except for Rt 6, decrease parking lots
 - Capture more water from runoff (water capture)
 - Economic and diverse workforce
 - Self-sustaining Truro (avoid trips to Stop & Shop)
 - Solar panels everywhere
 - Nicer bus stops designed by local artists
 - There are certainly obstacles (difficulty for elderly and disabled people to take the bus or get from home to bus, some can't bike, etc.) but we need to aim high.

6. Discuss updating CAC webpage

- Needs substantial updating – deferred until after ATM. Need to decide what we want to transfer to the new website.

7. Review Solar flyer



- Designed by Alex – it is excellent. How to distribute it?
- Might be difficult to distribute at ATM – 1000 copies on specified paper.
- Might be good to have a FAQ also – “Will this increase my taxes?” etc.
- Distribute it in early April – like the library fliers. Hand out at Transfer station swap shop, post office.
- Use the QR code at TM on a poster. Add a link to join the mailing list which exists for library sessions. Have a few paper copies for those without phones/camera.
- Pre-town meeting.
- This might be a way to attract more people to join CAC or the email list.
- Try to get an article on this in the Newsletter. We will have one for fire and one for solar (if the timing works).

8. Single use plastic bottle ban?

- Not discussed

9. General Updates:

- Solar article w/EC in the works
- Library Fire event – 3 speakers lined up for the fire event.
- Earth Day – Sat April 19, 10:30-Noon. “Water is Life”. Bottle cap mosaic using bottle caps collected from the beach. Laura Ludwig will have a table with information about marine debris (Center for Coastal Studies). Maybe another table on pond health and how to garden with less water (APCC). Educators from PAAM (Ptown Art Association & Museum). Laura Kelley – health of aquifers & . Fertilizer and pesticide reduction. Maybe a table from Truro Health & Conservation Office about Waste water management. CAC should have a table about EV’s, solar panels, heat pumps for your home, etc. Consider asking what we want people to do to reduce carbon footprint. Might get more people to join the CAC or volunteer.
- MVP grant(s), discussed
- Flyers at TM, discussed
- Residential Greenhouse Gas Inventory – on pause until after ATM

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Gebhardt

Vice Chair, Climate Action Committee

