**Tisbury Climate Committee**

Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 26, 2021

**Meeting called to order**: 5:00 PM

**Place:** Zoom:  <https://zoom.us/j/98351357421>

Meeting ID: 983 5135 7421                      Passcode: 408277

**Attendance:** Committee Members: Louise Clough (LC), Melinda Loberg (ML), Rachel Orr (RO),

Kate Shands (KS), Bruce Stuart (Bruce), Guest: Bill Straw (Bill).

Facilitator: Cheryl Doble (CD)

**Discussion:**

This was the initial meeting of the climate Committee, and those present voted Melinda Loberg as Chairman and Kate Shands as Secretary (RO moved, LC seconded, 5-0).

It was agreed that meetings of this committee will be held on Mondays at 5:30 PM, frequency to be determined as committee tasks become better defined. ML and RO will work together to post the meetings, and CD will attempt to get administrative help, such as minute-taking, from the Town (from Jay Grande or Pam Bennett).

CD began the discussion by calling attention to the Committee’s “Charge, Tasks and Responsibilities” established by the Select Board and signed by Jeffrey Kristal, Select Board Chair. She also called attention to the Climate Adaptation Plan being led by the Martha’s Vineyard Commission (MVC). She suggested that the committee might want to invite people such as Liz Durkee and Ben Robinson from the MVC Climate Action Task Force to bring the committee up to date on what has already been accomplished and current projects underway on the island to address climate change. She also mentioned that Bill and Bruce had been on the Tisbury Energy Committee for many years and will be able to bring us up to date on their activities

Bill then summarized what the Energy Committee has done over the last ten years.

They worked on improving 11 Town of Tisbury buildings by upgrading: lighting (switching to LED’s), heat, and hot water. Bill discussed switching to propane, hybrid heaters, heat pumps or even solar heaters but stressed the need to maintain back-up systems (resiliency). He noted that Tisbury had become a Green Community and was therefore eligible for payout funds, which are presented twice a year. (Sandwich was able to obtain $800,000 in payout funds.) He noted that Kirk Metell, Head of the Department of Public Works, has been a key player in the Committee’s work.

The committee work focused on the generation and conservation of energy. The installation of solar collectors on Town buildings and properties provided energy and revenue streams for the Town. Bill noted that the revenue generated through these projects went into the town’s general Fund. He would like some of this revenue to come back to the committee to advance future projects. Conservation work through improved efficiency in town buildings was accomplished using Green Community funding. He noted that we should have projects ready to submit every time Green Community grants come out. Otherwise, we are just leaving money on the table.

Bill discussed his recent focus on Tisbury’s critical needs and a 3-question survey that he developed. Bill will share the survey and provide a memo to the Climate Committee summarizing the Energy Committee’s work over the past ten years.

Cheryl then outlined the initial Climate Change planning on the island. Each of the six island towns have completed a Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP). The MVC has created two planning committees: The Climate Action Task Force (CATF) (which Bill serves on) and the Climate Resiliency Committee (CRC). The MVC has secured two MVP grants. The first grant funded the preparation of booklets for each of the towns entitled “Looking Forward: Climate Change Adaptation Context” and the second will fund preparation of the Climate Adaptation Plan. The goal of the plan is to increase island-wide resilience to the impacts of Climate Change through island-wide collaborative projects and resource sharing. Each town Climate Committee will identify town residents to participate in the planning process. These individuals will maintain communication with their towns, to gather town input and facilitate the development of town priorities.

Now that all the towns have completed an MVP, they can apply for MVP funding. Currently, the towns are competing for funding. The Climate Adaptation Plan will enable the island to co-ordinate funding efforts that benefit multiple towns.

The Climate Adaptation Plan is being led by the MVC’s Facilitation Team, with guidance from a Steering Committee. One member from each town’s Climate Committee will sit on the project Steering Committee, which will oversee seven Thematic Working Groups (TWG's).

* Land Use & Natural Resources
* Buildings, Infrastructure, & Transportation
* Public health and safety
* Economic resilience
* Energy transformation
* Food security
* Gosnold Islands

The Tisbury Climate Committee’s first order of business will be to appoint a representative to the Steering Committee and to identify town residents to participate on six of the TWGs in time for the MVC Kick-off event scheduled for November 17. LC volunteered to gather suggested names from the committee members and present them at the next committee meeting.

KS will collect contact information from each of the members (including Anna Edey and Keith McGuire, who were not present) and draw up a roster.

ML will post the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by RO, seconded by LC. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, Nov. 1, at 5:30 PM.