

Tisbury Climate Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: February 28, 2022

Meeting called to order: by Melinda Loberg, Chair, at 6:31 PM.

Place: Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96252025002>
Meeting ID: 962 5202 5002 Passcode: 438150

Attendance: Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Anna Edey,
Keith McGuire, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw, Bruce Stuart
Staff Liaison: Ross Seavey

Melinda began the meeting by reading the Covid disclaimer and the Zoom information.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Several small corrections and additions were made to the minutes of Feb. 7, 2022. Louise moved that the minutes be accepted, Rachel seconded, and the motion passed 8-0.

Discussion: Melinda asked Bill to begin the discussion with a report on their attendance at the CVEC Executive Board meeting last Thursday. Bill said they were creating a subcommittee to look at options for the solar array at the Park & Ride and other locations on the Cape and island. The owner/contractor for the array is ACE Solar. They pay Tisbury \$100,000 per year for “net metering credits” (which can be thought of as a “lease” on the property). The panels in the array are 290 Watts; today, the most common panels are 380 or even 450 Watts. The end of the 20-year contract is in 2034, at which point decisions must be made about what to do with the array. CVEC does not have the resources to buy the panels; they would only do that if they purchased others as well. Tisbury could say we want more money for the “lease” or could purchase the panels. Melinda said Bill will be on the subcommittee and asked for a motion to approve that; Keith moved, Anna seconded, and the motion passed 8-0.

The second report concerned the Tisbury School Building committee (TSBC) from Melinda and Bill. They reported that the only input we can have at this point are for modifications on the solar array on the roof, the solar canopy over the parking lot, and a change from a fossil fuel generator to battery backup. Melinda said we need to establish a hard date for establishing those three projects. The TSBC invited Bill to a subcommittee meeting and the co-chairs agreed to come to one of our meetings. Rachel commented that the building is all-electric; it is not a fossil fuel-based heating system. Anna asked about ducts, and Bill said mini splits can go either way. Anna also said that nobody knows much about the Tappe design and that the contract with Tisbury can be terminated at any time, so the plan is not cast in stone. Rachel said we might be able to have some input to the landscape plan and the wastewater and storm water plans; she noted that the parking lot is a low point, and there are drainage problems there. Bill

asked Ross to get the plans from Cronig's for their solar canopies, which were put in by South Mountain, and Melinda asked Ross if he had anything to add. Ross said he's an inspector, so there are issues, but he was making notes about the timing and that he will look at the plans for the school. He said the new building code will address issues with battery backup. There was also discussion about the wicks at the school, which are currently not being used; Melinda said all the plans concerning the wicks have been put on hold because the current leach fields can absorb more wastewater than was thought, and they are a less expensive option. She added that we should acknowledge that the wicks are there and not put something over the top of them. Bill asked Ross what he thought about how final the plans for the school are, since the drawings are out for bid, and Ross said the pads for the generator can be changed, but he suspects the roofline will stay the same. There is a large flat area that is eligible for solar panels and there are solar-ready areas; he said there is some room for small things to change. Bill also asked Ross about the disposition of the small solar array already at the school, and Ross replied that he expects preliminary demolition plans this week and at least the solar panels could be re-used. Anna said she has a presentation she would like to share with the TSBC, and she could do it at the meeting with the TSBC co-chairs. Melinda said she should share it with us beforehand. Keith asked if we should have Cheryl Doble & Liz Durkee come to a meeting before we invite the TSBC. Melinda said Cheryl called and wants to come to our next meeting, and she would continue to communicate with the TSBC.

The third report concerned the Steamship Authority (SSA). Melinda contacted our Vineyard representative, Jim Malkin. He said Nantucket's port is the next priority; it is the oldest and has the most needs. There was a discussion about flooding at the sewer pump-out facility in Tisbury, and that the air-intakes and control panel for the SSA boats are at ground level. Keith said that was a code violation, and Melinda said we should note that to Jared [Meader – Wastewater Superintendent]. Jim said the SSA agreed to do a study looking at the Vineyard Haven facility and sea level rise. He asked for an infrastructure protection plan and a timetable. Switching to electric boats is difficult because weight is an issue; the 2 newest boats are hybrids: they use electric power on shore and diesel underway. They are not planning any new ships, but they have heard the message.

Louise and Rachel reported on items from the FinCom, including a review of the wastewater budget, which includes \$100,000 for promising wastewater technologies. A \$75,000 evaluation of town-owned facilities may be deleted because Jay Grande said we already have an assessment.

Ross said he had talked to Margaret Song at CLC about getting Green Communities Grant funding, and Melinda said we need to identify projects for the April Deadline. Ross said we need to say that heat pumps and hybrid hot water heaters are the areas we have identified. Those are "low-hanging fruit" and easy to get now, and then we need to figure out later options. Anna commented that she had talked with an island plumber who said there are a lot of problems with hybrid heat pumps, and she will send the information she received to Ross. Keith asked who created the warrant article to do all these things. Ross said Jay Grande.

Rachel said the warrant article deadline is March 7, so we'll see how things shake out in the next week.

Steering Committee Report: Melinda forwarded an invitation from Jay Grande, inviting the Climate Committee to participate in the MVC Climate Action Plan Zoom workshop scheduled for Friday, April 1 at 10:00 to 11:30; the workshop is for the Tisbury Town Government and people from the town. The MVC asked for our assistance in identifying people who should be invited. Keith asked the Climate Action group to provide materials ahead of time.

Public Health & Safety Thematic Working Group Report: Kate reported that the committee is continuing to refine their goals.

Melinda introduced a new topic, saying stormwater, groundwater and sea level rise are big issues and they are not coordinated. The CZM [Coastal Zone Management] and stormwater groups are in their own silos. She noted that she had sent out two reports to the Committee on these subjects [the very technical, data driven CZM study and the Tisbury Impervious Cover Disconnection Project]. There was a lively discussion of these issues, emphasizing the following points:

- * Some projects in these areas belong to the Mass DOT because they own some of the roads, while others belong to the Town.
- * Solutions for the Five Corners area should not be the sole responsibility of the Town of Tisbury. The MVC sees Five Corners as an island-wide issue and is working on that issue; they are participants in the funding for those solutions.
- * We need hydrologic surveys.
- * We need a consultant to look at the integration of these problems.
- * Chapter 91 issues play a role here.

Ross commented that he is the floodplain administrator for the Town of Tisbury, and he will keep an eye on these issues.

Bill said the Committee needs to identify the top ten systems we consider most critical.

Melinda asked Anna to send us her school plan and asked Bill to send us his priority request.

She said we will address those items at the next meeting, in addition to having Cheryl join us to discuss the April workshop.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Louise, seconded by Anna. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 PM.

Next Meeting: March 14 at 5:30 PM. (Kate will not be there, so Rachel will take the minutes.)

Minutes submitted by: Kate Shands.