

## **Tisbury Climate Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** April 4, 2022

**Meeting called to order:** by Melinda Loberg, Chair, at 5:32 PM.

**Place:** Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/87906616906>  
Meeting ID: 879 0661 6906 Passcode: 901732

**Attendance:** Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Anna Edey (at 5:36 PM)  
Keith McGuire, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw, Bruce Stuart  
Guests: Ben Robinson, MVC  
Rita Jeffers, (Mike Watts, briefly), Tisbury School Building Committee

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

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Louise moved that the minutes of March 14 be accepted, Bill seconded, and the motion passed 7-0, with one abstention.

**Discussion:** Melinda began the meeting by asking for input on the Committee's goals for 2022. Anna said we needed to reach net zero ASAP and commented that she wanted to make sure her voice is heard. Bill said there were 3 areas we needed to be concentrating on: energy efficiency, energy generation, and climate effects such as sea level rise. He said we should concentrate on getting Green Communities funding for energy efficiency, and that heat pumps were a high priority. All agreed. Cape Light Compact will help us with evaluation of our needs and with pursuit of grant money. He said we should try to get heat pumps into one town building per year. In terms of energy generation, we need to put solar on the senior center; that will need a vote at town meeting.

Rachel said we need to add support for the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Climate Action Plan (CAP) process and the Master Plan process. She also said that we need to focus on outreach and education, and specifically to reach out to our neighbors on Lagoon Pond Road. Keith said that we need to add climate issues and goals to the Facilities Manager(FM) job description, and Melinda commented that the Town says we already have a job description. Rachel said the position is in the DPW budget, so funding for that position will be approved as part of the DPW budget, not as a separate line item. Melinda said we want to be able to share our goals with that person, and Rachel said s/he will answer to Kirk, who will answer to Jay. Louise said it's an M5 position, and we can have Kirk update the job description to include climate activities.

Melinda said one of our goals is to have a public meeting about all of this, and Keith said we need to have more publicity in general: we need to put information on the town website, and we need banners and mailings. Rachel said funding a website re-design is on the town warrant;

we can talk to Heidi about putting climate information on it. Rachel suggested re-cycling bins on Main St. Bill asked about stormwater and sea level rise.

There followed a discussion about how the town diverts water into outflow pipes, how we need to collaborate with the DOT and other entities doing stormwater work in the town, and the issues with Five Corners. Five Corners is partially out of our control, because Beach Road is state-owned and Water Street belongs to the Town. Bill said we need some fix in the next year: raising the road or culverts. Melinda said there are two projects in the works: improving the outflow pipes and diverting rainwater to a containment facility under the old fire station. Ben agreed that the state is doing the two things Melinda mentioned and said the Master Plan needs to address sea level rise.

Melinda then said we would come back to the priority list, but Rita Jeffers, the vice-chair of the Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) was with us, and we needed to talk about the school. Rita said Mike Waters had to step out and began by apologizing for the delay in updating the TSBC website. She said there were some health problems on the TSBC, and they were working on it. She then addressed a list of questions Melinda had prepared, to wit: The temporary school has been ordered; the completion date is February 2024; they are at 80% in the bid process; and they are working on making it energy efficient. The building consultants are WT Rich, Tappe, and Daedalus, and all of their websites have lists of their teams. Ben said the town goal is to have a net zero school and asked if that was accomplished and if there was an EUI (energy use efficiency) number for the building. Rita said yes to the net zero question; there would be a solar canopy in the parking area, and she thought there was an EUI number, but she didn't know what it was. She added, in response to a question from Rachel, that questions could always be directed to her and Mike and they would respond to the whole committee. She said she would send a list of other answers by the following day.

Melinda said Bill would be joining the working group and asked Bruce if he would join that group as well. Bruce agreed. Rachel asked about options for funding the solar panels and said we need lead time for town funding. This year there was a December/January deadline for town meeting. Rita said she would love to have the committee's support on solar panels and timing for them. In answers to questions from Melinda and Rachel about the website and where to find information, Rita said Mike will be coordinating that and CHA is managing the website. Melinda and Rachel followed up with questions about what decisions are still to be made, including life-cycle costs, and Rita said they are still making decisions about materials and costs. Ben returned to the issue of the website and said the website is part of CHA's contract and Rita needed to go back to TSBC and give them that feedback. Keith seconded that, and encouraged Rita to get people to do the work they're being paid to do.

Anna said the Select board needs to deal with Daedalus, and there are a lot of things that don't seem to be known. She outlined a number of problems, including the following: there is no plan for a prolonged blackout; there will be massive heat loss through north-facing windows; it is far more expensive than it needs to be; and she wants open meetings with Tisbury taxpayers. She said we have to stop this project or sue the consultants for their disregard for what's best for our community. Melinda told Rita that Anna is speaking on her own, not as a representative of the committee, and that the committee recognizes that a lot of decisions have already been made and cannot be changed. She thanked Rita for coming and said we looked forward to more contact with her.

Melinda then returned to the list of goals, starting with solar arrays over parking lots. Bill said we needed to add Water Street to our list of goals and make a plan for water problems getting worse. He said we need a plan for a pathway to the ferry if the usual routes are blocked. Ben said we need to be educating the town staff about decision-making and raise their awareness of climate issues. He said we may need town-wide job training. Melinda said we need to be looking at building and zoning codes. Ben replied that building codes are dictated by the state, but we certainly need to look at zoning codes. Melinda said we need to incorporate climate considerations into the Master Plan. Keith reiterated that we need to do more publicity and added that we were formed as an advisory committee without any teeth; we need to change our charter, so we have some power. He added that all plans need to have energy efficiency included in them.

Rachel asked if we need to meet with Jay and Kirk to discuss the Facilities Manager (FM) position. She said we need to put energy efficiency into the budget every year, and the Capital Plan needs to have energy in the spreadsheet. She asked Melinda if we could have Jon Snyder, Jay and Kirk come to a meeting to discuss these issues. Melinda said she plans to have Greg Leland come to the next meeting to discuss emergency planning, but they could come to the one after that and we could discuss the FM and how to institutionalize our input to the town. She added that she would find out more about the GC grant.

She then said that several of us were at the April 1 meeting between the MVC Climate Action Planning (CAP) group and representatives of the Town. Anna complained that we had so little input, but Louise said that was not her impression. She thought there were good questions, but added that we didn't get much feedback on the goals that were presented. She noted that the Select Board was not there. Keith said he was surprised at how little discussion there was; he said the CAP people are trying to make progress, but the goals are very general. The energy group had very specific goals, but the others did not, so people couldn't really disagree. He added that to build consensus, one has to start generally and slowly. Anna noted that the technical part was a problem. Keith said he would ask Meghan to send the results of the polls that were conducted. Louise commented that this will all cost millions of dollars, perhaps even billions, and it's a little scary, but she thought the idea of the group was good. Melinda said that Bill would say if we don't have goals, we can't accomplish anything. Rachel said there were 37 people there and there was real-time feedback; she added that we had our people there and there was real-time feedback from the polls. Melinda said we had better attendance than other towns and said kudos to this group for reaching out to members of other committees. Melinda asked for reports from the MVC Steering Committee and the Public Health & Safety Thematic Working Group, and both Keith and Kate said there was nothing to add to the report from the meeting.

Melinda said it would be her job to summarize our goals. Bill noted as a point of interest that he was putting in a new heat pump system at his house with mini splits on the main floor and a duct system in the attic; and it was costing \$27,000 for an 1800 square foot house; and the state would give him a \$10,000 rebate. He added that Nelson Mechanical is the only island contractor approved for the rebate through the Mass Save program. Rachel said there's a sizable tax credit as well from both the State and the Federal governments, and that's the same story for any energy efficient improvements. Anna said she had two mini splits in her house,

which she bought online for \$350 each; she had them installed by an island friend for a total of \$1500. Melinda asked her to send us the information on that.

Anna then returned to the Tisbury School and made a passionate plea for anybody to agree with her about how horrible it is. Ben said he did agree, but we're unable to change much at this point. He added that the MVC applied for a Vision Fellowship for an energy planner at MVC and an energy coordinator at Vineyard Power, and they got both positions. He said these positions will provide a source of information. Melinda said we are all feeling discomfort with the school project and we need more information. Anna said we have to stop the demolition slated for April. Rachel said she had worked very hard on the School Building Committee; she was not happy with where they ended; but there are limitations to what's possible and rules we have to abide by. She added that she would like for the school to have followed the path of the 1929 construction, where they thought long and hard about the design: they were planning for forever. She reiterated that she has challenges for where the plans ended up, but we have to make the best of the situation. She said we're not going to sue anybody; that doesn't help the Town. She wants to participate in any way that will help, but reiterated we have to respect the limitations. She said she's given up on major changes; the Town voted, and there are simply some things that cannot be changed. She added that it's very emotional for her. Anna said she can't give up hope. We're dealing with a company that won't take any input; they have a zero solar design; and she will continue to educate the Town. She said she's starting a YouTube site. Melinda responded that we understand Anna's passion and respect what she's doing, and she encouraged Anna to feel free to work on this issue outside of the Committee. Anna requested that we get together on this, and Keith said he would call her; they could write letters to the papers.

Melinda said it was time to adjourn. Rachel notified everyone that Greg Leland was out on medical leave and asked if we could get his assistant to come to the next meeting. Melinda said perhaps we could reverse the order and have Jay and Kirk come to the next meeting and Greg come to the one after.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Louise, seconded by Rachel. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

**Next Meeting:** April 18, 2022, at 5:30 PM.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Kate Shands