

Tisbury Climate Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: April 18, 2022

Meeting called to order: by Melinda Loberg, Chair, at 5:35 PM.

Place: Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/85806671532>
Meeting ID: 858 0667 1532 Passcode: 241373

Attendance: Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Anna Edey,
Keith McGuire, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bruce Stuart
Guests: Jay Grande, Town Administrator

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

Review and Approval of Minutes: Two corrections were made to the minutes of April 4, 2022. Louise moved that the minutes be accepted, Rachel seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Discussion: Melinda reported that Margaret Song is submitting a Green Communities grant application for heat pumps in the DPW building. A grant application for that item had been submitted previously, but the cost was too high. Because of the short time frame, Margaret will re-use the previous application. Jay said that was a good plan; it's due at the end of this week. Every six months, we will apply for something else. Jay said he and Ross will look at that tomorrow. Anna said we should look at the cost of doing some of these things with an independent installer as opposed to one supported by the grant. She said it's important to compare prices. Melinda said she thought the grant paid the whole cost. Jay said that was his understanding, too, but added that Anna was right that the contract group cost could be a lot higher. He said for fiscal year 2024, we could submit an article to do the work directly. Melinda said that was a good point, and it would be good to do it ahead, in time for Town Meeting. She mentioned doing it for other buildings as well, such as the Senior Center; Jay added the library.

Melinda then said she would like to review the Committee's list of goals for 2022. She shared her screen with those goals, and the items were discussed in order, as follows:

1. *Support the hiring of a Facilities Manager (FM) reporting through the DPW to the Town Administrator. Re-visit the job description to ensure the prioritization of climate goals across town buildings and infrastructure.*

Jay said he had spoken with Pam Bennett, and the Town would be proceeding with that position. Melinda said we wanted to add climate goals to the job description, and Jay said that it had been drafted several years back and didn't have an emphasis on climate. He said he would send the Word document to the Committee and that it would be

helpful to have measurable goals. Melinda said she would put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

2. *Utilize Green Communities grant money to ensure installation of heat pumps throughout town buildings. This year's grant will be used in either the Wastewater Treatment Facility, the Senior Center or Town Hall.*

Jay said the Town could set up an enterprise fund; there are different ways of doing that, and he would need help with that. There was discussion about where the money would come from; Melinda said Bill Straw had been advocating for using the savings money from the solar array to fund that; Jay said the savings idea may be tricky but suggested that the bulk of the checks we get from Eversource should go to that account. He added that if we want to specify where income from the solar array gets spent (i.e., reinvested in resiliency), it would have to go back to Town Meeting.

3. *Work with the Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) and their professional team to optimize the resilience and climate readiness of our new school building.*

Melinda said we need to know how to incorporate climate actions into the plan but getting information has not been readily available; we're hoping to get up to speed quickly with information for the public. She said she didn't know how closely Jay was working with the group and asked what the best lines of communication would be. Jay said Bill and Bruce are on the Building Committee sub-group concerned with the heating, cooling and lighting systems and that the meeting of the full committee on April 25 will be a critical meeting; it will be from 3:30 – 5:00 PM on Zoom.

Keith noted that it's on the TSBC website. Jay said the 60% cost estimates would be presented at that meeting. Anna asked whose idea it was to tear down the gym right after the recent Town Meeting, and said she would be standing there in front of the bulldozers to prevent that from happening. Jay said it was his understanding that the schedule will be revised at the 4/25 meeting and that he did not anticipate demolition until school recesses for the summer, at the earliest. Rachel asked if we should be paying attention to issues such as drainage and solar panels for the property across the street from the school (55 W. William St.). Jay said Ross Seavey and Kirk Metell were looking at best practices for that site, such as erosion and sediment control and monitoring it at weekly construction meetings. He said it is the future town hall location and he would like for that to be LEED certified. He said once it's up and running in terms of design, he would like Tisbury Climate Committee (TCC) input. He added that he would like input from TCC on the library as well and said he has asked to meet with the Library Trustees the first week of May. Melinda commented the library will involve many parts of the town and that we will look out for meetings we can attend.

4. *Continue to urge the town to monitor and work closely with the DOT and MVC in developing projects addressing flooding in the 5-Corners intersection. (e.g., the outflow pipe at Beach St. Ext. and the diversion of stormwater into a storage tank under the old Fire Station lot next to Veteran's Park.) If Town Meeting approves, a consultant will be*

hired to conduct a study of Veterans Park that will tie into this project and potentially impact the design.

Melinda began discussion of this topic by saying the TCC is aware of a couple of projects in this area, to wit, the outflow pipes and diversions. Jay said he's been working with Greenman-Pederson, Inc. (GPI) and the Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) in developing a new outflow pipe; he met with John Crocker and property owners, and they didn't like the higher elevation and further extension of the new pipe design. He spoke with James Houle at the University of New Hampshire, and he is coming out next week. The non-profit, TWI, has been an active partner with the town and James on developing technologies and priorities for stormwater projects. The duckbill design is better than extending the pipe out further but is proprietary. The plan for a holding basin under the old fire station lot should be good for at least 10-15-year storms. Applied Coastal has been working with the town, but several of the consultants who have been working with us left the company and started a new one: Sustainable Coastal Solutions, and the Town has just signed a contract with them to complete the work. Cheryl Doble and the Open Space Committee are working on that and Veterans Park. The Marine Terminal is moving forward. Initially there was a commitment by the Packers and Vineyard Wind to work on re-directing stormwater outflow from an existing pipe that empties from Beach Road into the Lagoon to empty into the Harbor instead. They are having problems with the stub connection, and Bill Austin and the Packers are looking into that. Melinda said she thought that was not folding into the wind farm operation as originally hoped, and Jay said that was correct. Anna said she had concerns about moving water straight into the harbor, and Melinda said that's why Cheryl and the Open Space Committee are looking at that; it's a work in progress. She then said that the news that Jamie's design for the duck bill is proprietary and can't be used by DOT is discouraging, and Jay said he was concerned about that, too, and we need to work with the participants in this project to find a solution. Melinda said she understood that the design was for 2023, and Jay said yes, and he wants to see it sooner than later. He added that he needs help with that. Melinda asked what we can do, and Jay said he needs to speak with Ben Robinson (Chair, Water Resources Committee), Adam Turner, the DOT, and others. He said he just learned about it last week, so it's fresh. The new outflow pipe is a step in the right direction. Rachel said she knows the hydrology in Veteran's Park is complicated; there is ground water just below the surface. Jay said the Water Resources Committee can serve as an arbiter with John Ramsey at Sustainable Coastal Solutions and James Houle. Rachel said we need to know if the Park is full and can't take any more water.

5. *Work with the town and its consultants to address flooding on Water St., Union St., and Lagoon Pond Rd.*

Melinda asked about blocked access to the Steamship Authority when there is flooding and whether the Town has developed a plan B or C if that happens. Jay said the Town has initiated discussions for a state grant to do work on Lagoon Pond Rd, but there is nothing on the table, even conceptually, for Water St. or Union St. Melinda said she has a sense they're waiting for Stop & Shop. Jay said he's not, but they might be. If Stop &

Shop had a rain garden, it would mitigate or control the problem, but it's not a total solution. The outflow pipe runs under the Steamship Authority pier and is hard to get to. Rachel said there's a big puddle there every time there's a storm and added that Stop & Shop has applied for a building project in Edgartown. Jay said it makes sense not to wait if we have something we can link to a larger project. Melinda said the Union St. parking lot is further along than Stop & Shop and asked if the Town is thinking about a solar installation there. Jay said he liked that idea very much; in fact, it's ideal, but there are complications with the VTA buses, because they want to utilize part of that parking lot. It will be important for the Master Plan Committee (MPC) to look at that; in fact, they need to look at both locations, and those need to be captured in that document. Melinda commented that the MPC has a lot on its plate. She added that sea level rise, traffic and the solar arrays all need input now. Jay added the Park & Ride lot as well. Rachel asked about car-charging stations at those locations, and Jay said yes, and he would like to see more electric vehicle use on the island. Melinda said maybe we could add car charging stations to all of the Town buildings.

6. *Build out the Climate Committee's page on the Town's website.*

Melinda said she met with Heidi (Rydzewski, Information Technology Manager) and she said there is money for a new website. Jay said they're planning a big upgrade with consultation from an outside group. He said the current website is past its shelf life and we need to get to the next level. Melinda commented that we can develop what we need, and Jay agreed. He said there were limitations to the current system, and the upgrade will correct that; he added that he has a couple of people in his office who can put things up on the website.

7. *Work with the Town Administrator to build staff understanding and consideration of the role Climate issues should play in their decision-making.*

Melinda asked if the Town staff thinks about climate considerations in their decision-making, or do we need to have more conversations with them? Jay said there's lots of interest and that we need to have regular communication – perhaps quarterly? He asked Melinda if she knew of someone in the community who could teach them. Keith said the Green Communities website has lots of links to resources.

There was then a discussion about a car purchase by the Town. There was a question about ecological considerations in the proposal to buy a car for the Assessor's Office. Jay said he did question that; he went through that project with Jon Snyder (Finance Director) and Anne Marie (Cywinski, Principal Assessor) and there is no ability to charge an electric car at Town Hall, so they went with a hybrid. He said there are no grants to cover a car purchase, and it would not hurt to amend the purchasing guidelines. He said if you go to the Town website under procurement, you can see the document and language could be inserted there. Anna made an argument for buying a used Leaf. Rachel said, in reference to amending the purchasing guidelines, that there is a capital spreadsheet; if we included climate-mitigation expenses in that spreadsheet, it would keep them on the radar. She asked if we should look at the template and if there's a way we could help. Jay said yes; we need to have a breakout after this meeting.

Melinda said yes, let's look at the standard procurement document and amend it. Louise returned to the issue about the car and said it wasn't just the absence of a charging station, but the assessors have to travel on terrible roads and they need a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Melinda said we need to figure out a good process. Keith agreed and said we need to reach out as a committee and find out where people park when they go to work and where EV chargers should be placed. Jay said the library will stay where it is; Town Hall will move to 55 West William St. A lot of people would love to have a plug-in facility at the school. We should look at the Emergency Services Facility, the Park & Ride, and Union St. There are already charging stations at the Senior Center and the Town Hall Annex. Rachel suggested the tennis courts on Center Street and Lake Street, and Jay said definitely, and the old fire station lot as well. Anna commented that people can charge in their own homes, and Melinda responded that we're actually talking about Town vehicles and Town employees. Anna said we could use the lot near the cemetery. Melinda said these are terrific ideas and asked Jay if there were other things that he wished the TCC would work on. Jay said an overall charging station plan would be extremely helpful. Anna asked whom we should talk to, and Jay said the FM and Ross. He said having the TCC attend his infrastructure meeting with the Public Works and Water Departments would be very helpful. Melinda said a public meeting in the first year would be a good plan. She thanked Jay and said this had been very helpful; Jay agreed.

Anna said she had designed a solar system and mini splits for the Senior Center and asked if she could get a total energy cost for the building. Jay said he should be able to get that information, and Anna said she would be very grateful. Melinda said it would be good to have the library, too, and Keith said an energy audit should provide that. If Cape Light Compact has done that, we would have the information. Melinda said that she had looked at the Green Communities grant for the DPW building, and it was very helpful. She added that she and Bill had climbed to the roof of the Tisbury school with a guy from an energy company that installs solar and looked at the existing set-up. There are 8 panels which are very old and way out of conformity. They might be connected, but they didn't move the dial. The roof is white and is able to support solar.

Melinda then said it was time to wrap up, and Rachel asked if we had suggestions for the FM job description, how quick a turn-around Jay needed, and he said they will be posting the job in 2-4 weeks, and he would like to have something to hand to applicants. There is a standard description, and Melinda said she would ask Pam to send it out so we can review it and make specific suggestions. She said we would review emergency planning at the next meeting, and she would invite the fire department.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Anna, seconded by Keith. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Next Meeting: May 2, 2022, 5:30 PM.

Minutes Submitted by: Kate Shands