

Tisbury Climate Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2022

Call to Order: Tisbury Climate Committee (TCC) Chair Melinda Loberg called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. (*Recorder's note: Discussions are grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Attendance: TCC members Melinda Loberg, Rachel Orr, Louise Clough, Bill Straw, Keith McGuire and Anna Edey\*; Staff Liaison, Ross Seavey, Tisbury Building Commissioner; Ben Robinson, Tisbury Planning Board\*\*

\*late arrival, 5:39 p.m.

\*\*late arrival, 7:04 p.m.

Minutes: The committee reviewed the minutes of Feb. 28, 2022. Louise Clough moved and Keith McGuire seconded approval of the minutes. The motion passed 5-0.

Climate Action Plan: Melinda Loberg reported that Cheryl Doble, who is a facilitator for the development of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) being produced by the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) was unable to attend the meeting. A local outreach meeting is scheduled for the morning of April 1 with Tisbury officials and staff to provide feedback on the draft plan. Cheryl is hoping Tisbury Climate Committee members will personally contact people and encourage them to attend the meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Committee members discussed this. Consensus was that members were comfortable reaching out to members of other committees in town but would let town hall administrators reach out to town staff. Bill Straw suggested that the meeting be recorded so anyone who misses it can watch it later. Keith McGuire, who is serving on the CAP steering committee, shared his screen and showed TCC members the draft document that has the list of goals and objectives for each thematic working group contributing to the plan (energy, food security, etc.) Keith said he would circulate the draft CAP goals to TCC committee members so that we can provide feedback to the MVC. He reported that CAP facilitators Cheryl Doble, Liz Durkee and Meghan Gombos are thinking of having a meeting with representatives of each town's climate committee. Keith asked if the TCC is interested in meeting with other climate committees. Consensus was yes. Bill Straw commented that the various town energy committees already meet monthly, and it is helpful. Bill asked how the results of the carrying capacity study being pursued by the MVC might affect the CAP and its goals and might the results of the study alter the plan. Keith said it was an interesting point, one that hasn't been discussed yet.

Anna Edey Presentation: Anna Edey presented her thoughts about the proposed Tisbury School renovation and addition project with the committee. (See Appendix 1 for the materials presented.) Anna is concerned about the energy plans for the school, concerned that it will not be a net zero project and about aspects of the design. She is also concerned about the cost of the

project, which will take 30 years to pay off. She is in favor of rethinking the design of the project.

Melinda Loberg acknowledged the incredible amount of effort Anna put into her presentation and then opened the floor for committee discussion.

Keith McGuire said he thought Anna had a lot of good thoughts in her presentation. Some things he agreed with, some things he didn't and some things he needed more information on before forming an opinion. He said he had gone to the project website to learn more but did not find recent minutes or plans. He has written to the TSBC asking for more current information but as of our meeting had received no response. Keith said some things he did not believe we could speak to as a committee, they were outside of our charge, although members could speak individually about those things. He thought we should focus our energies on the aspects of the building that are climate related.

Louise Clough said she agreed with Keith. She is looking forward to the meeting with the TSBC. She also isn't sure of the construction schedule and thought there may be limits to our ability to provide feedback.

Rachel Orr said she needed more information about the current plans, that based on the HVAC and lighting plans forwarded earlier in the day it appeared many details had changed from when she served on the TSBC.

Bill Straw thanked Anna for getting the conversation going. He believes the climate committee should be involved with the design, but the committee needs to stick with its responsibility of looking at the proposal's energy use and generation and with the aspects of it that have to do with climate change.

There was discussion about how we get to net zero, including achieving energy efficiency and better insulation values. Rachel Orr brought up the challenges of insulating older brick buildings and the problems in the building brought about by past attempts to limit drafts.

Keith McGuire said energy modeling should have been done and that we should ask to see it. He also said that building science continues to evolve and that we should check the current science before advocating for a particular technique or material.

Melinda Loberg asked Ross Seavey if he had any thoughts. Ross said he is mindful that he is serving as building commissioner on this project, and he is working to keep an appropriate separation. He said Keith was correct about evolving building science. He also mentioned that the building code includes an energy code and that he would expect that is the standard to which the project is being designed, not beyond it. (Designing beyond the code can add cost.) He suggested the committee focus on what's going to be built, not what is going to be removed. He

said he has received demolition permit plans and that the portion of the building to be removed (the gym wing) is scheduled to come down after town meeting.

Consensus was that TCC members should focus on aspects of the plan that relate to energy and climate. The committee has questions about the portions of the facility that will be available for town use during a climate emergency (hurricane, nor'easter, etc.), about energy use and generation plans and about materials choices (carbon footprint of different materials, etc.) Melinda and Rachel will work on a list of questions for the meeting with TSBC representatives. TCC will make recommendations to the TSBC after gathering much more information.

Bill Straw asked Ross Seavey was the plan was for the current solar panels on the school. If they are not going to be reused on the school, the town could probably use them elsewhere. Ross said he didn't know but he would follow up.

Green Communities: There is an April deadline for the next round of grants. Ross Seavey reported he had been in conversation with Margaret Song of the Cape Light Compact about it. Last week Ross went through all the town buildings. He believes Town Hall is a good candidate for mini-splits and a new electric hot water heater. The building is currently cooled with window air conditioner units. Bill Straw suggested that the DPW facility be the focus of the next grant round since that facility is used by crews even during weather emergencies, when other town facilities are closed. Melinda mentioned the town had recently replaced the boiler in the DPW building, but that the wastewater office was a possible candidate for a heating system upgrade. Ross said the new propane system could be kept as back up. Making sure the grant was sufficient to cover actual cost was also discussed – in the past actual costs have exceeded estimates. Ross said price fluctuations were negatively affecting everybody in the trades right now.

Goal Setting: Given that the meeting had already lasted more than two hours, the committee decided to move the goal setting discussion to the top of the agenda for the next meeting. Committee members were asked to come up with at least two goals for discussion, goals that we can meet in our remaining appointment period.

Adjournment: Louise Clough made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Anna Edey. The motion passed 6-0.

Minutes recorder: Rachel Orr