

Tisbury Climate Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: June 13, 2022

Meeting called to order: by Melinda Loberg, Chair, at 5:31 PM.

Place: Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/81692723245>
Meeting ID: 816 9272 3245 Passcode: 408991

Attendance: Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Anna Edey, Keith McGuire, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw

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

Review and Approval of Minutes: There were no corrections to the minutes of May 16. However, Rachel was not present at this point, and Melinda thought she had some corrections, so final approval of minutes was deferred until the next meeting. Louise moved that the minutes be provisionally accepted, Keith seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

Discussion: Updates from Previous Meetings: Melinda reported that she had met with Jay and Kirk and that it was unsatisfying. Kirk is no longer our liaison to the Town; he is waiting for a Facilities Manager (FM) to be appointed, and that person will serve as liaison to this Committee to work on energy and climate concerns. The Town has advertised for the position, but Melinda doesn't know if there have been any applicants yet. She suggested that we can work on our own spreadsheet regarding heat pumps, solar canopies, electric/hybrid vehicles, decreased energy consumption, etc. She asked if Bill had a spreadsheet and he said yes and no. We're aiming to have all Town buildings have heat pumps by 2030. We will know about the DPW grant by July 4 and will have to stay on top of that with Kirk and Jay. Nelson Mechanical could not start work on that project until December. The next building on the list would be the Senior Center. Melinda asked about the library, and Bill said either one: whichever is shovel-ready, but he thinks the Senior Center would be preferable. He added that solar canopies are not Green Communities (GC) eligible. Rachel said she had obtained a list of the Town fleet, and there were more vehicles than she was aware of. The Town has a number of large gas-powered trucks. Bill said, regarding GC monies, we follow their lead and their list. It will take another 2 years for electric trucks to come to the market. We can go back to the GC list and see what vehicles qualify. He mentioned that the Town bought 2 police vehicles last year and wondered if they were hybrid. Melinda said Jay was enthusiastic about making the shuttle bus (#10) to the Park & Ride be an electric vehicle. Rachel commented that induction chargers are now available in Edgartown. We can ask for the #10 bus to be electric, but we don't have the same charging capability as they do in Edgartown. Bill suggested that we invite someone from the VTA to one of our meetings. Melinda said she would call Angie [Angela Grant, VTA Administrator} and ask her. We need a charging station, but the bus stop near the ferry

terminal is in a flood zone. Rachel suggested that the Park & Ride would be preferable, and Melinda agreed.

Report from League of Women Voters/Trustees of Reservations State of the Coast Meeting:

Rachel and Kate both attended, and Rachel reported that the two speakers were both informative and interesting. They reviewed the Trustees data sets on Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket, and Rachel noted that Edgartown has put a link to the Trustees site on their webpage and suggested that Tisbury consider doing that as well. She said having the involvement of the League of Women Voters is a good thing. Melinda said she would work on the link.

Steering Committee Report/ Public Health & Safety Thematic Working Group Report:

Keith reported the Climate Action Plan (CAP) has 4 components:

- 1 – Greenhouse gases
- 2 – Planning process
- 3 – Timeline
- 4 – Guiding principles

On June 20/21, there will be another meeting of the Steering Committee and the Thematic Working Groups (TWG's). On June 28, the website designers will begin their work, and on July 29, the website will be completed, including the final plan.

He reminded us that there are 7 TWG's:

- Gosnold
- Land Use and Natural Resources
- Transportation and Infrastructure
- Food Security
- Public Health and Safety
- Energy Transformation
- Economic Resilience

Kate reported on the CAP Final Workshop on June 9, because Keith was unable to attend. It was an opportunity for all of the TWG's to meet with each other and share ideas that will be incorporated into the final plan. In addition, members of other Town Climate Committees who were present expressed interest in working together. As Keith noted, the final plan will be on the CAP website. Liz Durkee stressed that the plan can be modified as needed. Once it's complete, Liz will take that plan to each of the Town Select Boards for review. It was recommended that the members of each Town Climate Committee accompany her to those meetings. In the future, there will be 2 main committees at the MVC dealing with climate change: the Energy Committee and the Climate Resiliency (CR) Committee, which will be a continuation of the Steering Committee. Kevin Brennan, the new Emergency Manager Coordinator who was hired by the Emergency Managers Association and will be housed at the MVC, will chair the Energy Committee, and Liz will chair the CR Committee.

Melinda asked if Keith would be willing to continue on the CR Committee, and Keith said yes.

Melinda then asked if everyone present was willing to continue working on this committee. Appointments are made at the end of June. All agreed. She also noted that we have can have one more person and asked people to be looking out for good candidates.

Grants: Melinda noted that Margaret Song and the School Building Committee had both sent lists of possible grants and asked if we thought we should take a break from looking at grants until a FM has been hired. Anna commented that sometimes it is more expensive to do work with a grant than without one and noted that Jay had agreed with her on that point. She said we need to re-think some of what we're doing with grants. She then added that people do not know what is going on with the school.

Rachel said that we had to turn back some grant money we had received and that there are larger issues with the Town. We need to ensure that we are using what we are getting. She asked if it would make sense to have a trained grant writer/administrator on staff. Louise said she thought it would be a good idea to pause on grants until we have a FM. Keith said he agreed with Rachel and also, to some extent, with Anna. He noted that we are working with a Town, so that creates complications such as having to deal with warrants. Anna said we have to learn more: mini splits are cheaper than what is being planned at the school. Keith asked if there is a heat pump at the Senior Center; Anna replied that there was one in the meeting room. Bill said we don't actually know what's there. An energy assessment is part of the GC application process, and Keith asked if it's good for 3 years. Bill said he didn't think so. Melinda said that an evaluation had been done on each of the Town buildings, but she didn't know how out of date it was. She said she would talk to Jay and try to get a copy of those. Bill said that pricing has changed so much that he suggested we start from scratch. Rachel said we can find out, through the Finance Committee, which buildings are using the most energy and costing us the most, and she can talk to Suzanne [Kennedy, Town Accountant] and get the bills. Anna said she already had the electricity data. Melinda said we need to get fuel information. Bill said it's important to stay on track. Melinda said the Town needs a fund of money to meet new costs because of increased prices. Bill said such a fund has been set up, but there's no money in it. He said we need \$100,000 in that fund every year, based on what happened with the DPW grant. Rachel said it's a stabilization fund, so it needs to be voted on at Town Meeting. Melinda said we can talk about having our own line item and that we need to talk about access to funds in general. Rachel said the Town knew fuel costs were increasing, so they left some money in the budget to cover those. If we had a line item that covered grant overages, that would be good, and we need to talk about that. Melinda said Jay has a fund, and we need to have continuing conversations about money. Bill agreed that we lost a grant at the DPW because costs went up and we need to have money in a fund to make up differences like that. For example, hot water heaters can be expensive, and they could be a side project. Melinda said we need that FM, and we need to press the Town on that.

School Building Committee: Melinda said she didn't want to spend a lot of time on the school, but they are not having meetings, they're waiting for bids, and the website is not being updated. Anna said this is wrong; nobody knows what's going on. Rachel said the Town calendar had a meeting that was supposed to be this past weekend, but there were no agendas for the Building Committee. She said bids were supposed to go out and that the Select Board

meeting was interrupted last week, and will meet at 11 AM on the Thursday the 16th. The School Building Committee will meet sometime this month. She agreed that there are challenges. No one knows what was put out for bids, and it is hard to find details. She asked if Ross knew anything. Melinda said Ross is focused on the trailers, and that he is an inspector, not a planner. She added that when the Select Board meets, we may find out something about the school. Rachel said we can't help with grants if we don't know what the plans are, and Melinda said we can give them feedback that if they want our input, they have to make information available to the public. Anna said they are reducing the cost of the renovation by eliminating things like the faulty windows. Melinda said we all share the same frustration, and none of us has been heard.

[At this point, Melinda's internet connection Froze, and the meeting had to be continued without her.]

The group continued the discussion about the school, noting that the trailers will need to have bathrooms with hot water heaters that will require a lot of energy and perhaps instant ones could be installed. That would have to be done in conjunction with the School Building Committee. Rachel suggested that it would be helpful to check in with the Planning Board, notably Cheryl Doble and Ben Robinson, since they helped get the climate committee started last year. She volunteered Melinda to reach out to the Planning Board about scheduling.

Future Meetings: It was decided that the next meeting would be June 27 on Zoom, since we are allowed to continue having Zoom meetings until July 15, and that we would explore the possibility of having future meetings at locations that we are discussing, starting with the Senior Center, so that we can evaluate where things stand and what need to be done at those locations.

Action Items:

Melinda will:

- 1 - Contact Angie at the VTA and invite her to a meeting of the Committee.
- 2 – Work on getting a link to the Trustees website on our Town website.
- 3 - Try to get a copy of the evaluation of Town buildings from Jay.
- 4 - Ask Cheryl and Ben to have a check-in session with us.

Rachel will get energy bills from Suzanne.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Keith, seconded by Bill. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Next Meeting: June 27, 2022 at 5:30 PM

Minutes Submitted by: Kate Shands