

## **Tisbury Climate Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** August 8, 2022

**Meeting called to order:** by Melinda Loberg, Chair, at 5:45 PM, due to technical difficulties. Melinda began the meeting by reading the Covid disclaimer and the Zoom information.

**Place:** Town Hall Annex and Zoom

**Zoom:** <https://zoom.us/j/9750619542>

Meeting ID: 975 061 9542 Passcode: water

**Attendance:** Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Keith McGuire, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands

Guests: Ross Seavey

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Rachel moved that the minutes be accepted, Louise seconded, and the motion passed 4-0, with one abstention (due to absence for that meeting).

**Discussion:** Melinda began by reporting that the application for a Green Communities grant for a mini split system for the DPW was accepted. Ross will ride herd on the project and put it out for bid because the Town still doesn't have a Facilities Manager. Ross said that the State hasn't announced the grant publicly yet; he is waiting for paperwork; the grant is for more money than we received last time; Margaret Song says if the bids come in higher than the grant, there are ways to fund the extra cost; and we have more than a year to execute the grant. He added that Elena DeFoe is the new procurement assistant for the Town. There was further discussion about where extra funding could come from if there is a shortfall (possibly the energy stabilization account or the capital account).

There followed a continuation of our previous discussion of options for solar power in Tisbury, starting with DEP controlled land and Town-owned parcels at the DPW site. Concerns included the need for deep footings for a solar array, the possibility of mounting a solar array above ground, the problem of uplift in a windy area, and the problem that we can't build a structure on top of a leaching area. It was determined that we need an engineer to help us answer the questions we have about these issues. We also discussed the possibility of putting solar panels on the DPW building, but the roof of that building is not strong enough for solar panels, and we need an engineer to help with that problem as well.

Other areas of discussion included the following points:

We need to boost solar generation for the Town, and we need to look at generation and where to put it. Should we focus on canopies or rooftop solar?

There are water mains and sewer lines under the borrow pit.

The Water Department operates outside of the purview of the Town.

The Town owns the parking lot next to the Stop & Shop and lots of land dedicated to cemeteries.

The existing solar array should be an asset for the Town.

The police station is in a flood zone and in the middle of a high traffic area.

Much is in flux right now because of the school, and there was concern that there will not be any appetite for other big projects once that is resolved.

Plans for a new Town Hall are on hold until the school issues are resolved.

Richard Andrade [Vineyard Power] has been talking with the Town about battery storage, and Rachel suggested that we talk to him.

Massachusetts codes haven't changed to address battery storage. A final draft is expected in January 2023. At that point, we need to look at permitting. Melinda said she had circulated the state regulations.

Keith said we should look at the net energy monitoring (NEM) program in Hawaii, in which customers with rooftop solar can add batteries and sell their stored energy back to the grid during peak hours. Rachel described the solar power initiative in Louisiana called the Community Lighthouse Project, in which New Orleans is cooperating with churches and nonprofits to create a communitywide network of nonprofit "resilience hubs" powered by commercial-scale solar systems with backup battery capacity that will generate power to assist communities, especially environmental justice neighborhoods, when power poles go down. She wondered if we should talk to Community Services about such a project.

Keith posited the question of how to increase our influence. He noted that we have no budget, and there is no requirement for us to be consulted. He said we need to have a standing list of recommendations, such as requirements for new building projects. He said we could look at the Stretch code as a basis, and Melinda agreed that we should create a list of our priorities. Rachel also agreed and added that it's difficult because of the number of players involved but said that we should be part of the discussions that are taking place in the Town. Rachel added that West Tisbury may have developed principles related to municipal buildings, and Melinda said she could check with them. Melinda also reminded us that Jay Grande has repeatedly expressed a wish for our input.

Rachel commented that our task is frustrating, because climate and energy requirements were set out for the school building, and they didn't happen. She noted there will be a Special Town Meeting on September 22 regarding school funding and said that we need to decide as a committee if we want to take a stand at that meeting. She said there will be a lots of HVAC equipment on the roof of the school and asked if there is any way we can know about whether there will be room for solar panels. Melinda offered to say something about climate priorities at the school meeting the following day. Keith made a motion to that effect, Louise seconded, and the Committee voted 5-0 in favor.

**Steering Committee Report:** Keith reported that the website is not done yet; they are behind schedule, but it should be up and running soon.

Melinda suggested that we have Cole Powers, an electrical contractor with Powers Electric, come and give us an electricity overview at our next meeting. We could ask someone from Vineyard Power to the meeting after that, and then we could invite Ronit Goldstein from Eversource to join us.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Keith, seconded by Louise. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, August 22, 2022 at 5:30 PM, location to be determined.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Kate Shands