

Tisbury Climate Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 5, 2022

Meeting called to order: by Melinda Loberg, Chair at 5:30 PM.

Place: Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/9750619542>
Meeting ID: 975 061 9542 Passcode: climate

Attendance: Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw, Bruce Stuart* Liaisons: Ross Seavey*
*late arrival, 6:15 PM

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

Review and Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes of November 7 was made, seconded, and approved.

Discussion: *[Recorder's Note: Discussions are grouped for clarity and brevity.]*

The first order of business was warrant articles that required funding for Town meeting, which have a deadline of Dec. 14. We received a quote of \$159,408 for solar panels at the Senior Center, and the Committee decided to request \$175,000 in case of cost over-runs. Kate made a motion to that effect, Bill seconded it, and it passed 5-0. Melinda reported that she had met with Jay Grande. The town has not hired a facilities manager (FM) yet, and Ross Seavey is leaving in January. The Town is undergoing a payment schedule study, and Jay anticipates that the FM position will move to a higher grade with a higher starting salary. Unfortunately, the Steamship Authority and the airport are also looking for FM's, so there will be competition. Jay suggested that if we don't find a FM, there might be a possibility of filling an administrative position that could help us with grants, etc. Possibilities include a position within the DPW and a Natural Resources (NR) Director, since that position is on the books and has been approved at Town Meeting. Kim Elias has been hired as a NR assistant; the paperwork is in the harbormaster's office. The NR Director position is an umbrella directorship involving the harbormaster, the shellfish department, and the conservation commission and would involve coordination across town departments for grants and permits. The job description covers storm water and sea level rise, and there is a question of whether energy resiliency would fit in. Bill noted that we do have Margaret Song at CLC to help us with grant applications. He also reminded us that we are looking at two areas: energy generation and energy efficiency. Margaret can help with the latter, but we don't have help for the former. Melinda said that Jay was thinking of using outside consultants, and we might be able to get more closely allied with and get some assistance from VP. Bill said he wasn't sure that would work because the amount of money we can expect from VP is small – only about \$50,000 per year. Perhaps car chargers could be covered by VP money, but any solar project would cost in the range of \$150,000.

Melinda wondered if we could let the VP funds accumulate for a few years in order to fund larger projects. Rachel wondered if the NR Director position could be useful in hardening the water facilities, assuming that person had some clout. There was then discussion about how to package what we need: a Sustainability Administrator? FM? NR Director? An administrative person to report to the FM and the NR Director? Louise pointed out that it's difficult to report to 2 bosses. Melinda brought up the possibility of an article for Special Town Meeting to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$50,000 to add to the Climate/Energy Reserve Fund for sustainability projects approved by the Town; she noted that Bill would probably suggest \$100,000. The discussion moved on to consider the revenues the Town receives from the solar arrays at the EMF building and the landfill and various potential funding sources for new projects and the difficulties involved in funneling those monies into an accessible fund.

At about 6:15 PM, Ross and Bruce joined the meeting, and the discussion moved to consideration of the Stretch codes, which specify the State's green energy requirements for new home construction or updates to existing ones. The Base Stretch Code covers the basic State energy requirements, but some towns agree to a higher level of requirements (the Specialized Stretch Codes). Ross outlined the differences between the 2023 Stretch Code, which will automatically update on January 1 and will tighten existing requirements, and the Specialized Stretch Code, which sets even tighter regulations: it would need for the Town to pass a warrant article to accept it. The differences are summarized in the attached Tables. Maximum HERS (Home Energy Rating System) scores, which are the industry standard for measuring a home's energy efficiency, are specified in the tables: a score of 55, for example, means that a home is 55% more efficient than one built in 1990. Whether the Town adopts the Specialized Stretch Code or not, construction costs are going to go up, and a more stringent base code will go into effect in 2024. The Committee voted 6-0 to have the Town vote on whether to adopt the Specialized Stretch Code, but all realized that it will involve educating the residents on the differences between the base and specialized codes.

Because the discussion around the Stretch Codes was lengthy and the time was late, Melinda moved quickly to other items on the agenda: she opted to hold off on discussion of flood plain by-laws until a future meeting. With respect to the CZM [Coastal Zone Management] grant, she noted that Jay had a meeting with John Ramsey, and the CZM grant is back on track. She said she would invite John Ramsey to a TCC meeting to bring us up to date. Finally, she said that when Vineyard Power came to a meeting, they asked for two volunteers from the TCC to work with them. Bill had already agreed; Kate asked about the calendar, and Bill said he wasn't sure. Melinda noted that VP wants us to fill out their spreadsheet and presented one of her own for the Town's capital planning that might satisfy the VP requirements. Melinda asked Kate if she would join Bill to work with VP after the first of the year, and Kate tentatively agreed.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made and seconded and the motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Next Meeting: January 9, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Minutes Submitted by: Kate Shands

Stretch Code 2023 - Automatic

TABLE 1: CHANGES TO MAXIMUM HERS INDEX (SEE TABLE R406.5)

On-site Clean Energy Application	Maximum HERS Index score (before renewable energy credit)				
	New construction			Alterations, Additions and Change of use	
	Updated Stretch Code July 1, 2024	Updated Stretch Code (Same as base code)	Current Stretch Code	Updated Stretch Code	Current Stretch Code
None (Fossil fuels)	42	52	55	52	65
Solar		55	60	55	70
All-Electric	45	55	60	55	70
Solar & All-Electric		58	65	58	75

Specialized Stretch Code – Warrant Article Needed

TABLE 2: Residential Specialized code requirements summary by building/dwelling unit size

Building Size	Fuel Type	Minimum Efficiency	Electrification	Min. EV wiring	Renewable Generation
Dwelling units up to 4,000 sf	All Electric	HERS 45 or Plus CORE or PHI	Full	1 parking space	Optional
Dwelling units up to 4,000 sf	Mixed-fuel	HERS 42 or Plus CORE or PHI	Pre-wiring	1 parking space	Solar PV (except shaded sites)
Dwelling units > 4,000 sf	All Electric	HERS 45 or Plus CORE or PHI	Full	1 parking space	Optional
Dwelling units > 4,000 sf	Mixed-fuel	HERS 0 or Plus ZERO	Pre-wiring	1 parking space	Solar PV or other renewables
Multi-family >12,000 sf	All Electric	Plus CORE or PHI	Full	20% of spaces	Optional
Multi-family >12,000 sf	Mixed-fuel	Plus CORE or PHI	Pre-wiring	20% of spaces	Optional