

Tisbury Climate Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: January 23, 2023

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

Place: Zoom: Meeting ID: 975 061 9542
Passcode: climate

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

Attendance: Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw

Liaisons: Casey Hayward, Planning Board Liaison

Review and Approval of Minutes: Louise moved that the minutes of January 12 be accepted, Rachel seconded, and the motion passed 5-0.

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

Chair announcements: Melinda reported that Kirk and Jay decided not to put in heat pumps at the animal shelter because they have adequate space heaters and no money. Margaret Song called to say she assumes the Town is not pursuing this option at this time. Rachel said that there is a \$70,000 warrant article for a new heating and cooling system there; Melinda said RISE engineering looked at it, and we are waiting for the next round of grant applications. The Harbor Department is applying for money to upgrade the Harbormaster's building, and they have estimates for the work. One bathroom is open for the staff. The showers are closed. They heat the water with an electric hot water heater. The ventilation/exhaust system is turned off, which leads to mold; they are planning to install a reinvigorated ventilation system. They heat the building with electric heaters, but they are not heat pumps. They believe the building will be replaced within 7 years. Currently, they are asking for money to install an inside door to the bathroom, fix the exhaust system, and put a new floor in the second story. Melinda wrote to Margaret Song to ask if we could use the remainder of the Green Communities (GC) money for instant hot water heaters there.

Melinda and Bill attended a CVEC meeting recently, where they heard about the status of lithium batteries. The National Energy lab in Colorado has a good handle on preventing fires from these batteries, although things are still in a state of flux, and fires (called "thermal runaway") are still occurring. Most of the market is in vehicles and cell phones. Melinda can send slides from that meeting to the committee and to the water superintendent, the fire chief and the MVC. Bill reported from that meeting that there is an opportunity for towns to be "off-takers" from solar generation. There was a discussion about the benefits we get from our own solar arrays and the need for us to be able to track those.

Melinda also reported that she had spoken with John Ramsey about the CZM work. He finally was paid, and there will be a big meeting with him, CZM, and the Town. The grant ends in June, so we have lost a lot of time. John Ramsey is working with John Crocker; there will be one public meeting; and he will have meetings with the abutters along the harbor. Melinda suggested that it would be useful for us to have him and John Crocker come talk to our committee and maybe have someone from the Open Space Committee come, too.

TCC Submission for Town Report: Melinda asked if there were suggestions for the draft annual report from the TCC to the Town. Rachel said that Kirk had been discussing how poor the construction of the duct works was in the Emergency Services Facility and wondered if we could get GC money to help with the problems with that building. Bill said we need to identify the problem better: are the roof leaks due to the solar installation or have they always been there? Rachel said the Town had paid Environmental Partners (EP) to do a study of the buildings and added that Kirk had said that all the Town buildings have been neglected and are in bad shape; EP could do the work to address the delayed maintenance. Bill said it was an opportunity to highlight the most critical problems facing the town, including that we have no emergency plan. Melinda said they are just not ready to share it with us, but we will get one.

Discussion of DOT's public hearing and possible comments by Climate Committee: Melinda tried to get the DOT plan in advance of next Monday's meeting, but it was not ready yet. She asked if we have questions to bring up at the meeting, and the group proposed several questions that need to be asked concerning the path of the water coming down State Road to Five Corners and the planned installation under the parking lot at the site of the old fire station.

Continued review of 2023 goals and support for implementation of the island's CAP: Melinda shared a slide of the goals, and said we need to review the MVC Climate Action Plan and see where it fits into the Town's plans. Louise said it would be good to hear from Keith about any suggestions he might have.

Grant Opportunity: Melinda announced that Edgartown had informed us about a grant opportunity for 4 charging stations that could be installed at the Park & Ride and said she would share the grant information with all of us. She put a place holder warrant article on to fund it in case we decide to go ahead with it. Rachel wondered, in case there are problems with the Park & Ride site, whether we could locate them at the Annex, because it would be a shame to lose this opportunity.

Other: Rachel said she came across a useful site today which provides another way of looking at the Town and habitat: mass.gov/BioMap. Melinda reminded us there's a Town election tomorrow and said the Master Plan Committee is holding two public meetings in February (2/13 and 2/16); information can be found on the Master Plan website. Rachel asked if there was a way to look at the plans before the meetings, and Melinda said she would investigate that. Casey said she knew how to sign up for it; and she would pass that information along. She added that it's interesting, and there's a specific climate section.

Adjournment: At this point, the meeting was ended abruptly due to technical difficulties, so there was no motion to adjourn.

Next Meeting: Melinda proposed that the next meeting be Feb. 6, at 5:30 PM, but no decision was made due to the technical glitch.

Minutes Submitted by: Kate Shands