

## **Tisbury Climate Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** April 17, 2023

**Meeting called to order:** by Melinda Loberg, Chair at 5:33 PM.

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

**Attendance:** Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough,  
Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw, Bruce Stuart  
Liaisons: Casey Hayward, Planning Board Liaison

Melinda began the meeting by noting that Zoom meetings are still allowed.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Louise moved that the minutes of 3/6 be accepted, Bill seconded, and the motion passed 5-0 with one abstention. Louise moved that the minutes of 4/3 be accepted, Bill seconded, and the motion passed 6-0. Kate will post both on the Town website, and Rachel noted that the Town is working on a new website, and there might be problems posting.

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

**Preparation for Town Meeting.** Melinda reviewed the following Articles for Town meetings:

- \* Article 13 for the Special Town Meeting re-names the Energy Stabilization Fund to the Climate and Energy Stabilization Fund and expands the purpose of the fund to cover costs of improvement related to energy conservation, reduction, generation, and storage for all Town facilities (not just Town Hall) and for climate resilience projects.

- \* Article 13 for the Annual Town Meeting concerns funding professional services for the evaluation of municipal operations and facilities (\$80,000 from the Unreserved Fund) and was re-worded by the Finance and Advisory Committee to include all Town buildings, not just Town Hall. Melinda proposed an amendment to that article, to be presented at Town Meeting to add the words "as well as energy generation and conservation and resiliency goals for the Town". After some confusion over money from the Unreserved Fund and money from the Climate and Energy Stabilization Fund, and some discussion about whether to add any wording about the Town's Green Communities status (decided against), Kate moved that the amendment be accepted, Louise seconded, and the motion passed 6-0. Melinda will submit that language to Jay and Deborah Medders prior to the Town Meeting

Melinda reported that Jay asked the Select Board if it would be okay if he and Jon Snyder made a proposal for a building committee that would make recommendations for Town Hall and other Town facilities, such as the trailers from the school project, Educomp, and any new buildings. She said we can recommend that one of our members be on that committee.

\* Article 20 for the Annual Town Meeting proposes transferring \$50,000 from the Unreserved Fund to add to the Climate and Energy Stabilization Fund for sustainability projects approved by the Town. The committee discussed the use of those funds to cover shortfalls in grant amounts. Rachel said she saw this money as a savings account for bigger projects, and Melinda said we could take money out of this fund for projects such as solar arrays. Bill asked if we must wait until next year to use these funds, and Melinda said yes and that Jay plans to put money into this fund every year.

**Green Communities (GC) Update.** Melinda said we have not resolved what our next GC project will be. Bill said Kirk doesn't expect the library will be ready for a grant, and we have to finish one grant before we apply for the next one. He said the priority is to focus on centers that can be used as heating and cooling centers and proposed that we make the Senior Center our next priority because neither the school nor the library will be ready for the next grant cycle. He said the Senior Center has 4 heat pumps, and Louise said we need to find out where they are and how they are being used. Bill said Rise Engineering has been looking at that building; it has a boiler system that can be used as a back-up. Melinda asked about solar, and Bill said no, they don't cover generation, just efficiency. He added that he believed we could add car chargers. Melinda said we had discussed using Vineyard Power (VP) money for a solar array at the Senior Center and that we would need for an outside company to handle that, because the Town staff is not ready to take on such a project themselves, and Louise agreed. Melinda said the VP money would not cover all the costs. Rachel said that the Senior Center will be very important for heating and cooling over the next couple of years while the school and the library are undergoing construction. They could have a generator or battery backup for phone charging, water, etc. in case of an emergency or prolonged power outage. Melinda agreed, saying we should continue to push for the Senior Center to be ready to support the public. Rachel added that if something were to happen during the school day, the library and Senior Center would become primary, and until the library is ready, it will be the Senior Center. Bill proposed an engineering evaluation for heating and cooling and hot water. Melinda asked if it would include charging stations, and Bill said he would have to check on that, and he could ask Laura Selmer. Melinda asked about lighting, and Louise said Rise Engineering will do the whole thing. Melinda said she would write up a paragraph about this proposal so that we will be better prepared for the next round of grants.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Rachel, seconded by Louise. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

**Next Meeting:** May 8 at 5:30 PM by Zoom.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Kate Shands