

## **Tisbury Climate Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** July 17, 2023

**Meeting called to order:** by Melinda Loberg, Chair, at 5:38PM.

**Place:** Planning Board Annex  
High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven

**Attendance:** Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Rachel Orr, Daniel Phelan, Kate Shands, Holly Stephenson, Bruce Stuart  
Liaisons: Casey Hayward, Planning Board Liaison  
Ben Robinson, Tisbury Planning Board Chair & MVC Commissioner

**Review and Approval of Minutes:** Louise moved that the minutes of June 12 be accepted, Rachel seconded, and the motion passed 6-0 with one abstention.

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

#### Eversource Report:

Ronit Goldstein will be at the next Select board meeting on July 26 to discuss the letter that was sent regarding the placement of generators, trailers with office space, and porta-potties on Tisbury land near Mud Puddle Road, all without conversation at the Select Board level. Melinda, Bill, and Rachel will meet with Jay before that on Wednesday, July 19. Rachel collected the relevant easements and can pass them along to Jay. Melinda will update the Committee on the 7/19 meeting.

#### Appointment of Town Hall Study Committee:

Melinda announced that a Town Hall Consolidation Task Force has been formed to look at the possibility of locating Town Hall in the old Educomp building. Rachel pointed out that there was a warrant article passed at Town Meeting that said all building concerns should go through the Climate Committee and wondered if this Town Hall Task Force is under the same obligation. She asked if we should send them a note and added that the issue did not come up before the FinCom. Melinda commented that Kirk and Jay do not seem to have climate issues at the top of their minds; Casey added that there are communication gaps. Melinda said there will be a discussion at the Master Plan level. Rachel said that her concern is that the owner is a private person who will be doing the work, and the Town will lease the building from that person; she wondered if we are even allowed to do that. Louise said the owner had plans which the MVC nixed; he was going to go back to the MVC. Rachel asked if any proposal for the building would have to go before the MVC, and Ben said yes.

Follow-up on outreach to taxpayers re: CLC opportunities:

Melinda reminded us that there are funding grants available for folks who qualify and need climate-related upgrades and that Keith has information on those people; we haven't heard from Keith yet, so we will have to wait on that item.

Seawall grant kick-off:

Melinda reported that there has been a longstanding effort regarding the seawall along Beach Road to the bridge. and finally, something is happening on that front. Previous grant proposals all failed, but the Town has now received \$78,750 in BRIC [Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities] funding from FEMA for its "Beach Road Resiliency Improvements Project Scoping." The scoping project will develop a "revised conceptual design" based on past plans. This funding is aimed at protecting Beach Road from stronger storms and erosion, and the Town will use the money do a feasibility study through the Tighe and Bond (T&B) consulting firm to prepare for a larger grant. T&B will hold a planning charrette and invite community input.

There followed a wide-ranging discussion about how to protect the causeway road and the bridge, covering issues such as the debate over who owns the Seawall (the State says it does not, but most everyone else says they do); the need for a structural analysis of the wall; current and past plans and studies, including John Ramsey's Storm Tide Pathways work and Jamie Weissman's Harbor Walk plan; Mass DOT plans, including one to raise the road by four feet; studies looking at lengthening, moving or jetties; previous proposals to provide stepped-down wave breaks and/or an underwater breakwater (which are waiting for trials elsewhere); Vineyard Wind plans, and the Master Plan. Melinda attended a meeting at which T&B said the road can recover after a storm and they want to make the road more resilient. Jay said the TCC and Open Space Committee should be involved, and Holly said she would like to be at the table for these discussions.

Non-Agenda Items:

- There are new regulations concerning the LDO; there are price increases, and they are no longer taking bulk materials such as TV's mattresses, tires, metals, and brush. The public will have to transport these materials themselves to OB or Edgartown. Also, the State has a compost program, but the DPW is not taking advantage of it.
- Rachel reported that she had attended the environmentalist Bill McKibben's talk at the West Tisbury Church. His message was that we are running out of time to make a difference with respect to climate change. Rachel wondered if there were a way to make the TCC more effective. Melinda responded by saying we need to define our agenda better.
- Casey asked about the carrying capacity of the island, and Ben said the MVC is working on it, but we are probably beyond optimal already.
- Ben brought up the issues of flood plain laws, plastics, and how to remain a viable economy if we shrink development.
- Casey commented that the schools don't compost or recycle and suggested that the Tisbury School could take the lead on those issues and that we could advocate for

teacher carpooling. Melinda and Ben suggested that we could invite someone from the school to talk about their plans and practices.

- Joyce at the Senior Center wants the TCC to meet at regular times if we are to continue using that venue; it was decided that the Planning Board Annex is a better location. We can still use the Zoom option but will plan to meet in person for the time being.
- Melinda would like to rotate the chair position.
- Anna Edey sent a letter of resignation from the TCC.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Rachel, seconded by Kate. The motion passed 6-0 because Daniel had to leave a little early. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

**Next Meeting:** August 7, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Location: Planning Board Annex

**Minutes Submitted by:** Kate Shands