

Tisbury Climate Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tisbury Town Hall Annex
High Point Lane, Vineyard Haven
And Zoom

January 29, 2024, 5:30 PM

Attendance: Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Keith McGuire, Kate Shands, Bruce Stuart at Annex

Zoom: Rachel Orr, Daniel Phelan, Holly Stephenson

Liaisons: Casey Hayward, Planning Board (Zoom)

Others: Linda Ziegler (Zoom)

Review and Approval of Minutes: Rachel moved that the minutes of December 11 and January 8 be accepted, Keith seconded, and the motion passed 8-0.

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

Green Communities – grant options

The heating system at the Senior Center has been fixed, and Jay Grande, Kirk Metell, and Erik Blake think there's no need for heat pumps there. Melinda checked with Amy at the Library, who said they are renovating with an Owner's Project Manager, not Cape Light Compact, and won't be ready for new grants until 2025. CLC would be happy to do an analysis of the library's needs and could also do an analysis at the Harbormaster's building. Bill sent around a list of 8 hot water heaters that could be replaced with instant hot water heaters, and we could urge Jay, Kirk, and Erik to address hot water heaters and lighting. Keith suggested that we tell them we think they are a high priority.

Jay went to a meeting where EV Charging stations were addressed; he sent along an estimate from East Coast Renewable Energy (ECRE) for three Dual-Port DCFC (fast) publicly available charging stations. The committee discussed this proposal and came up with several questions, including who would own them (the Town or a vendor), whether the Town could charge for them, and where they would be located (possibilities include the Park & Ride, the shed on State Road at the cemetery, and the pay lot on the site of the old fire station). Bruce agreed to call ECRE to get answers to these questions, and the group decided to review what Edgartown has done with charging stations.

Tree Planting Program

Tristan Israel took up this issue and pitched a proposal to Jay. A Warrant Article was accepted to fund a plan to plant trees near the dog park and have them serve as a "nursery"; they could be available to be moved to other locations when necessary. Keith added that the planters on Main St. can also serve as a sort of tree nursery. Holly noted that there are trees dying on the Jabberwocky property, and they are unaware of that; she wondered about replacing the dying

trees. Melinda said she would talk to Tristan, and Louise said Polly Hill, Biodiversity Works, and the Natural Neighbors Program could be good sources of information.

Letter to Water Department re Trees underpower lines

Melinda reported that Daniel had prepared a letter to send to the Water Department concerning the trees under the power lines at the Tashmoo well. Dan screen-shared the letter. Kate moved and Keith seconded a motion to send the letter to the Water Department and Tisbury Waterways, Inc. The motion passed 8-0. Dan suggested that in the future, we could possibly send such letters directly to Eversource. Linda asked what happens to those trees after they're cut down, and Melinda said we could ask Eversource.

VSEC meeting summary

Kate reported that the group discussed adopting the Specialized Code. Only Aquinnah has adopted it, and there is a possibility that there will be a change in the state base code that will make it unnecessary for other towns to adopt it. There was a discussion about electrifying Steamship Authority (SSA) ferries, and whether it would make sense to incorporate the SSA into the state DOT. The committee believes that there needs to be a more forceful presence on the Cape Light Compact (CLC) Board. Towns should collect the quarterly energy reports from the CLC, and Vineyard Power will help to analyze them. The committee advocates that the towns should establish full or part time Energy Transition Managers, although they noted that it won't happen in Chilmark or Aquinnah. Town updates included that Alan Strahler will stay involved in Edgartown energy matters until successors are found; the Chappy fire station has received a CLC energy assessment; Edgartown is working with NREL [National Renewable Energy Lab] on electrifying a facilities department property; the Chilmark School and Community Center are running on new heat pumps; Chilmark's DC fast charger will be located at the EMS lot where the level 2 chargers are; and Chilmark's master Plan will include renovation of town buildings. Daniel agreed to attend the February meeting.

Committee Updates:

***Flood Plain By-Laws**

Keith reported that there will be a meeting on February 6 with an expert from Cape Cod. Liz Durkee and Meghan Gombos are working on coordinating the MVP 2.0 and the NOAA grants; they want support from the towns. Melinda said we should be thinking about people to recruit for the MVP 2.0 project. Louise added that there is small committee to raise funds and that adding to the embarkation fee is not an option.

***Eversource – Cape and Vineyard Electric Compact**

No report because Bill was not present.

***ETIPP – Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project**

Melinda reported that the water departments from the down-island towns are now attending these meetings and that there are challenges to strengthening resiliency.

***Invasive Species Questions**

Melinda said it would be nice to focus our resources in this area and suggested that Holly gather information from the organizations Louise introduced in the tree planting program discussion. Holly added that the Land Bank and Trustees are working on their own properties.

***Seawall grant**

Melinda reported that we are waiting for reports from consultants.

***Tisbury School solar**

Melinda thanked Rachel and Dan for preparing a rough draft of an appropriation request, which was circulated, covering costs of the project. The Warrant Article request would be for \$1.2 million. Melinda reported that the Town has asked us to meet with the school committee and that she had reached out to Amy Houghton. Rachel noted that right now, the incentives are so good that the payback period would be short. Dan noted that consumption will drop in the summer, when production will be at its highest, which will result in a credit on the account. The group discussed the Town's wishes in terms of ownership. Rachel reported that the school committee will be coming before the Finance Committee on Feb. 7, and that it would be worth having a discussion with them.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Louise, seconded by Kate. The motion passed 8-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Next Meeting: Feb. 12 at 5:30 PM.

Location: Town Hall Annex

Minutes Submitted by: Kate Shands