

Tisbury Climate Committee
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 29, 2021

Meeting called to order: by Melinda Loberg, Chair, at 5:35 PM.

Place: Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/96307628790>
Meeting ID: 963 0762 8790 Passcode: 505808

Attendance: Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Anna Edey,
Keith McGuire, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw
Guests: Liz Durkee, Meghan Gombos, Cheryl Doble
Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Climate Action Plan (CAP)
Ben Robinson, MVC

Discussion: ML began by reading the Covid disclaimer. She then announced that Jay Grande and Ross Seavey were unable to attend this meeting and would come to a future one. She reported that she and Bill had planned to meet with Kirk Metell to discuss the appointment of a Facilities Manager (FM). Melinda spoke to Kirk, and he said that the FM position already exists and has been approved at a previous town meeting. However, the funding of that position must still be approved at our upcoming town meeting and is being placed in the DPW proposed budget. The FM would carry out what we had envisioned in terms of renovating and replacing parts of the town buildings. She asked Kirk to attend our meeting and heard back from Jay Grande that Ross Seavey (Tisbury Building Commissioner) will be the town's representative to our committee. Jay asked that we schedule another meeting before Christmas so that he and Ross can attend. She also announced that our next meeting will be Dec. 6, if Ross and Jay can attend.

Bill reminded us that there is Green Communities money available twice a year, but we have to finish one project before we can apply for a second grant. We have a grant to put a heat pump on the DPW building, and he doesn't know where that stands. He said we should have a list of projects ready to go once a project is completed, and added that a Cape Light Compact person assists with those grants. Rachel asked if Kirk could come to the next meeting as well. Keith said we need a list of projects that the town is undertaking, and Bill said Kirk could fill us on where things stand.

Review and Approval of 11/15 Minutes: Kate said she had added Bruce Stuart to the list of attendees and changed the votes to reflect his presence. Rachel made 2 corrections: she has been trying to reach Glenn Provost, not Heidi Stevenson, to discuss representation on the Infrastructure and Transportation (IT) Thematic Working Group (TWG), and she corrected the spelling of Betsy Carnie's name. She also said that it should be noted that she had left the meeting early. Louise moved to accept the minutes as amended, Bill seconded, and the motion passed 7-0.

Melinda asked for a report from the MVC Steering Committee, and Keith reported that the Climate Action Plan Kick-off Meeting will take place on Wednesday, Dec. 1. Melinda said we will hear more from Liz and the other MVC representatives about that.

Rachel reported that she had spoken to both Alan Fortes and Glenn Provost about serving on the IT TWG, and both had declined. We have not received an answer on that score from Kirk, Ross or Jay.

Meghan joined the meeting at this point.

Melinda said that Keith had re-organized the committee's Mission Statement and that we could request a change to the Select Board; she said we could take that up at a later meeting. Rachel said the original Mission Statement was prepared by both the Select Board and the Planning Board, and we should keep the Planning Board in the loop. Anna said we could make the changes and submit it to the Select Board, and Keith replied that there was no need for that: his document didn't change anything; there were no additions or subtractions, merely clarifications. He said we can just use his document for ourselves.

Cheryl and Liz joined the meeting at this point.

Melinda introduced our guests. Liz is the Climate Action Planner for the MVC; she was the Conservation Agent in Oak Bluffs for 26 years before her appointment to the MVC. Meghan is a resident of Aquinnah and is an independent contractor who has been involved in community-based climate change planning. Her focus has previously been on the Pacific Islands. Cheryl is a resident of Tisbury, and is on the Tisbury Planning Board, the Open Space and Recreation Committee, and the Resilience Committee.

The committee members then introduced themselves to our guests. Louise said she has been involved in health care for a long time and wanted something different. She is particularly worried about the Steamship Authority and Beach Road. Anna said she has been involved in solar design for 60 years and is thinking about a Google Earth satellite image of Tisbury showing the PV potential over existing roofs, parking lots, etc. Bill said he is a Tisbury resident and has been on the Energy Committee for the past 10 years; he is looking at solar issues, building efficiency, and preparing for a Category 5 hurricane. Keith said he is the project development manager at the Island Housing Trust (IHT) and has been involved in architectural design since 2000. He is on the MVC CAP Steering Committee and has worked with Kate Warner and Noli Taylor on the Island Climate Action Network (ICAN) as well as with Meghan and Ben. Kate said she is a fairly new year-round resident of Tisbury and is a retired physician and has worked in the field of Public Health (at CDC). Ben said he is on the Tisbury Planning Board and is on the Task Force at the MVC. Melinda said she is the Chair of the Climate Committee and the President of Tisbury Waterways, and that the committee was only recently formed and we are playing catch-up. She said we're lucky to have had a strong Energy Committee led by Bill and to have Bill on the Committee.

Melinda then welcomed Liz, Meghan, and Cheryl and said we need to learn about the CAP goals and what our Committee can do. Liz said the committee has an important role. CAP and the town will be working together; this is a community effort.

Meghan noted that Keith designed her home and an auxiliary apartment, and that it is a net zero home. She then presented a slide show reviewing the MVC CAP history, goals, actions, and implementation. She reviewed the Municipal Vulnerability (MVP) Grant and its two phases. The first was to conduct listening sessions and produce town-by-town booklets. The second is to develop community-based climate adaptation planning. She outlined the structure of the CAP and said there will be an interactive website so that everything will be accessible to the public. She emphasized the broad representation on the Steering Committee and the TWG's, including representatives from the towns, the county, the tribe, the Brazilian community, and the NAACP. All of the work being done over the next six months or so will culminate in Climate Week in May of 2022. There will be Thematic Months leading up to that week. For example, November was Food Security month, and December will be Public Health & Safety month. She said that implementation will be greatly enhanced by having Liz as the Climate Planner at the MVC, and she emphasized that bringing the towns and other stakeholders together will be very valuable in obtaining grants. She announced that the kick-off meeting will be on Wednesday, December 1 and will be for the participants of the Steering Committee and the TWG's. It will be recorded and available on the MVC website. (Keith and Kate will be there.)

Louise asked how we can find out about the Thematic Month events, and Meghan said they will be posted on the ICAN website and in the Gazette. Rachel asked if there were Steamship Authority representatives on the IT TWG, and Meghan said yes. Liz noted that we don't know who they are yet.

Liz said we need to establish priorities and to gather information about green infrastructure. She said different towns are doing things differently. At the MVC, phase 1 included a database compiled by an intern that we can review. Liz noted that so far, the MVC website is not the best. Meghan said that the town booklets have a lot of useful information, and that the digital version of those has links. The Trustees of Reservations have issued a State of the Coast report.

Bill asked the MVC group to prioritize their top ten infrastructure concerns and said that for him, number one was the water system. Liz said they will be looking to us for that kind of prioritization because we know the town better than they do. She noted that everyone would consider Beach Road and Five Corners to be top priorities and referenced a Green Infrastructure Grant that has been prepared with UNH. Rachel asked if the MVC has island-wide infrastructure priorities, and Meghan said the IT group will be looking at that. Bill asked what infrastructure, if we lost it, would be the most devastating. He said if we lose roads, we can go around, but if we were to lose the water supply, it would be a big problem. He asked if we know how fragile the aquifer and the wells are and noted that one of the wells is near a transformer and could possibly be contaminated. Liz said every time she asks anyone about the

water, people say we have plenty of water. She agreed that water is critical, and we need to preserve and protect it. She also noted that 3 of the 4 roads to the hospital would be lost in a major storm. Anna suggested installing batteries and PV panels near the water towers with enough power to keep the tanks full of water without using fossil fuels. Cheryl said that the hazard mitigation plans cover some of this, and that we need to consider whether sea level rise could put salt into the aquifer. She said we also need to consider how the committee will interact with the CAP and how we get the word out. She added that Kate and Keith would be directly involved with CAP groups.

Keith asked if we could have a page on the town website and if, given Open Meeting (OM) Law requirements, we can talk about all of this with our friends. Cheryl said there are all kinds of meetings and it's more complicated using Zoom. Rachel said that there is no problem with one-on-one conversations; it is only if a group of us meet that there are problems with the OM Law. She said we need to be careful about how we communicate with each other, not with our friends. Melinda noted that our meetings are open, and we can encourage our friends to attend.

Anna asked if she would have a chance to explain what she's working on to the Committee, and Melinda said absolutely. It's an educational process, and we would set it as an agenda item. She also said that if we see a strategy to share information, we can send it through Keith to the Steering Committee. She then thanked the MVC representatives, and Liz replied that she is always happy to help.

Anna then asked about the informational meeting about the berm, and Melinda said it will be on December 15 from 5:00 to 6:30 by Zoom.

Melinda said our next meeting will be December 6 if Jay and Kirk and Ross can attend, December 13 if not. Rachel asked about inviting the Water Superintendent (Chris Cassidy) to a meeting and Melinda said that was a great idea.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Rachel, seconded by Anna. The motion passed 7-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Next Meeting: Monday, Dec. 6, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Minutes Submitted by: Kate Shands