

## **Tisbury Climate Committee (TCC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** March 6, 2023

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

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

**Attendance:** Committee Members: Melinda Loberg, Louise Clough, Keith McGuire, Rachel Orr, Bill Straw

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

**Review and Approval of February 6 Minutes:** Minutes were moved, seconded, and approved.

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

#### Chair announcements:

Melinda reminded everyone again to check their status regarding the ethics training and testing requirement. Earlier today she had forwarded an email from Pam Bennett outlining how to get into the training website and how to get proof of training back to the town. Louise said that it was easy to get the training done, and that she had already sent her certificate of completion to Pam. The information about entering information on the town website was confusing, and she couldn't even find the section Pam had described. There were questions about whether this training had to be done every year (some thought it was every two years).

#### ETIPP (Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project)

Melinda met with Kate Warner and representatives from West Tisbury, Oak Bluffs, and Edgartown to discuss this federal program which provides technical assistance to remote and island communities, in the areas of energy, resilience, microgrids, batteries and more. An application for this technical assistance will be submitted by Kate on behalf of the towns. She will need a lot of data about the town, and Rachel offered to help Melinda gather the information. In 2022, Aquinnah and Chilmark applied for, and are receiving assistance now. It's not clear whether they could be part of the 2023 submission. Kate will send us a publication called "Energy Transition Playbook" that might be a resource for us as we do outreach to the public.

#### Warrant Articles: Update

- Louise said that the warrant article for \$175,000 for a rooftop solar array on the Tisbury Council on Aging was no longer on the warrant, in part because of the need to save money on the total town budget, and because there is no facility manager to oversee the project. The committee discussed whether we should consider having CVEC do the project. There were concerns that a private company might not be able to own solar panels on a municipal building, and the town would have to pay taxes on income from the array. We need a legal opinion on this. Bill pointed out that several years ago, CVEC put out a bid for a solar array, but there were no bidders. Rachel asked if a larger project – perhaps including the school, the library, and the senior center would bring more bidders – Bill thought that it would. Bill suggested that an array at the Sr. Center would not necessarily need to be connected to the Eversource grid. Rachel said the Tisbury School has 3-Phase electric service and may be an easier solar project to accomplish. More discussion is needed, and Melinda will contact Richard Andre at Vineyard Power to see if a meeting could be set up with Jay Grande. Generally, there is a need for better coordination amongst the Town departments and committees in planning for these common projects.
- The late-filed article to rename the Energy Stabilization Fund to the Climate Stabilization Fund, and to fund it by a transfer of 25 -40% of the annual income generated the solar array at the Park and Ride will be rewritten by the town.

#### Grant for Charging Stations

The proposed warrant article for charging stations will not be on the warrant this year, but Louise thought that we could request funding next year from the embarkation fees.

#### Update on CZM (Coastal Zone Management) grant

Melinda said that the grant had involved a consultant with two partners, but they split up, with one moving out of state, and not supplying information we need until they get paid. This issue awaits resolution. This is a two-year grant, but nothing has happened for a year. There are two projects – Veteran's Park and 5 Corners. John Ramsey is coordinating with Horsley-Witten on the projects, and Melinda will contact Jamie Houle (UNH Stormwater Center) to see what information she can get. There have been several proposals for stormwater technology in the Veteran's Park area.

#### Update on the solar array at the Park and Ride

No update, other than that we have asked the town to fund the Energy/Climate stabilization fund by transferring 25-45% of the annual income generated there. Jay Grande is working on ways to provide funding whether it is through revenue from the solar array or some other mechanism.

#### Calendar item: *Ferries Now* at the film center

This 4-hour presentation will take place on March 31. Speakers from Denmark, Maine, and Washington State will speak about their electric propulsion vessels. After lunch, the Steamship Authority, their consultants and Eversource will speak about the challenges of moving in this direction with our fleet. Registration is required, but it may be too late to sign up; however, the program will also be on Zoom. Melinda and Louise were able to register.

**Meeting adjourned** at 6:45

**Next Meeting** – April 3 at 5:30 pm on Zoom

**Minutes Submitted by:** Louise Clough