

WT Energy Committee

Minutes

3.9.21

Present: Richard Andre, Nicola Blake, Ron Dagostino, Geoff Freeman, Sue Hrubby, Rebekah Thomson, Kate Warner.

Guest: Kathy Logue

1. **Minutes** of 2/9/2021 approved.

2. **EV Charger update**

Nicola and Sue tried to submit an application for **2 double-headed Level 2 chargers at the WT School** via the State EVIP program but when it was discovered that the cost of the software and 5-year warranty were not covered as part of the program, they dropped their work on the application. (those extras represented almost half the cost of the proposed installation.) In addition, there would have been costs for signage and a requirement that one of the spaces be designated as for handicapped EV charging. Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt felt spending money on this at this time was not appropriate.

Kathy Logue brought up that the School hopes to redo the parking lot and fix the wiring of the street lights in lot so it might be good that this was delayed.

Rob Hannemann did get approval for a Level 3 charger at Chilmark School at the UIRSC meeting, saying that it was free of charge. *Kate noted that she hopes West Tisbury is not asked to share in the costs of this if, indeed, it is not free.*

Library double-headed charger is moving ahead with Green Communities and Town funds. Eversource is expected to make it ready at the end of March; RISE will install the actual charger in combination with other island work some time after that. We will need to figure out how to market this installation as we will be charging a fee for people to use it and we need to recoup costs that the Town is laying out for the warranty and software. We can copy the model that Ron Collins of Orleans has set up to do the same for his town.

Nicola also communicated with Alan Strahler about how Edgartown is approaching the funding of EV chargers. It was noted that working with the other towns benefits all.

3. **Historic District Committee meeting re: future canopy** in Library parking lot Meeting was deemed to be positive. As a result of the meeting, if a canopy was ever considered, it would be better sited on the north side of the parking area so as to not compromise the gardens/landscaping that the Library has done. The HDC became more aware of the idea of resilience with regard to climate change as a result of the

discussion and it was felt that once the CLEAR report is out, it should be shared with them. *We should partner with the HDC on resilience projects to do the best we can for the Town.*

4. **Green Communities and School.** Progress is being made with regard to adding the School to the list of buildings on our GC list. Kate will be before the UIRSC on Tuesday March 16 to hopefully get their approval and before the Selectmen on the 17th for same. Required is a commitment to 20% reduction in energy use over 5 years and a commitment to purchasing fuel-efficient vehicles when replacement is due.

5. **School Roof and Freezer.** \$257,600 is on annual TM warrant to replace the flat roof at the school. Timing is not great as we would like to look at the school in its entirety and develop an approach for the whole building but, the warranty is up and the school has had lots of issues with this roof. Question was whether, in addition to the sloped insulation that is used underneath the roof membrane to pitch it to drain, could more insulation be added in this area? *Sue thought maybe Cape Light Compact could help with this. Ron will ask Margaret Song.*

Jamie Labbe, School facilities manager, has been given contact information for Margaret Song in the hopes that Margaret can help him choose the most efficient walk-in freezer possible for the School. This is a warrant article for \$59,763.

6. **Developing a better process for Town building and equipment repair**

Kathy Logue pointed out that when things break and need replacement, the Town generally has the plumber (or whomever) just replace with same.

We need to set up a process- with the Selectmen's endorsement- to have building managers check with a designated person on the Energy Committee before such replacements / repairs are done to ensure they are in keeping with our stated goal of 100% Renewable by 2040 and of moving towards all-electric.

She also suggested some sort of education outreach or course for building managers on this topic.

7. **VTA bus battery bank.** No update as yet. It seems Angie Grant may want to go ahead with inductive charging at Town Hall this summer but use the grid to power it. She has not called another meeting of the VTA Battery committee to discuss the siting of the equipment on the Town Hall site as yet.

8. **\$5000 Edey Grant was received** for Climate Coordinator position. A match for this is on the TM warrant. Kate has requested that the Selectmen go ahead and advertise for the position now and the person would get \$5-10K for the work, depending on the

Town Meeting vote. A job description has been submitted to Jen Rand and Selectmen for their review. *This will be discussed at March 17 Selectmen's meeting.*

9. **VSEC meeting report and Vineyard Power funds** – Ron reported that VSEC is looking at what its next steps and work will be. Vineyard Power will have funds for resilience projects as a result of the Community Benefit Agreement with Vineyard Wind.

They agreed to form **an advisory committee comprised of VSEC members** to recommend town projects to Vineyard Power. Kate suggested the advisory committee composition be re-thought as 3 of the 6 members of VSEC sit on the VP board and that board has the final say on project selection. Getting some additional voices and ideas, would be beneficial.

We need to come up with 3 resilience projects that we would like to do in our Town.

VSEC is also asking each of **the town energy committees to come up with a 5-year plan.** Kate suggested that the Energy Group that is a subcommittee of the MVC Climate Action Task Force provide their recommendations to the town energy committees and perhaps a template so that our work is more informed and effective.

Vineyard Power is also tasked with coming up with a 1-5 year energy resilience plan.

Ron will bring these suggestions to the VSEC group at March 17 meeting.

10. Airport is putting in a level 2 double-headed charger by one of their buildings. They will be installing solar on the Fire Safety Building and some canopies over parking areas. There will be additional EV charging in the canopy areas, similar to what Cronig's has done. *Geoff will show us a bit more about this at our next meeting.*

11. Rebekah reported that Angie Grant of the VTA is in touch with Mark Friedman, financial manager for the school system about a multi-year strategy for EV school bus acquisition. *Rebekah will check on wording of school bus warrant article that will be at our Annual Town Meeting for this year.*

12. Agreed we would keep on with the idea of meetings every 3 weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday March 30, 8:30 am.

Upcoming topics

Vineyard Power Advisory Committee rep

Our 3 resilience projects

Airport Round 6 projects