

WT Energy Committee
Minutes
1.11.21

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

1. Minutes of Dec 8 approved by all. (Ron Dagostino had not arrived yet.)
2. Rebekah presented a letter to be sent to the MV Commission and Oak Bluffs Planning Board about the artificial turf proposal. After discussion about whether it was broader than our focus but with an eye to climate change accelerating, most were for it. A few edits were made to the letter and it passed with Richard Andre abstaining.
3. The idea of creating a Climate Coordinator position was discussed. Included were comments that our work is increasing and volunteer effort is not enough. One issue that was brought up was that we need to be sure we keep track of the requirements of grants we have received so as to not be disqualified for future grant opportunities. It was also pointed out that the EC has been valuable to the Town – saving it money with its Green Community efforts and the Town landfill solar array and by getting the grant to analyse what is needed to help the Town realize greater resilience. Sue and Nicola agreed to send a letter from the EC and the Climate Advisory Committee to the Selectmen expressing the support of both groups. All supported the position with Kate abstaining.
4. The EC & CAC Town Report and the EC part of the Capital Improvements Committee portion of the Town Report was reviewed by all. Nicola created a very effective graph comparing the energy use of our Town Buildings. This will be included in our report.
5. Our introductory letter to the Townspeople with regard to what they can do in response to the 100% Renewable by 2040 goal went out with the Census mailing this week. It is also up on the EC page of the Town website with links to more information. (thanks to Janice Haynes)
6. Reports from other committees attended by our group
 - VTA battery installation review (for the Town Hall) has begun. Question is where to put the battery which is in a container 20' x 8' x 8.5'. There will be a battery safety information session on Jan 19 at 9:00 am.
 - The Library was chosen for a solar/battery system to increase Town resilience, as part of CVEC Round 6. A letter is being drafted to outline what the Town expects to get from this installation: what components will be used and how it is to perform.

- Sue reported on the new EV charger installation. Will be done by RISE Engineering. Question as to whether "Chargepoint" has the accounting functions the Town can interface with as this will be a for-pay charger.
- Ron reported on VSEC discussion. Erik Peckar presented to the group on MA CEC Act Now II which is open to applications now. This is a transportation-related grant opportunity. Discussion about role of VSEC moving forward. Will they prepare energy plans for the Towns? Should there be a community-buying program? (outercapeenergize.org was mentioned) It was suggested that Ron be in touch with Erik Peckar of Vineyard Power and Megan Amsler of Self Reliance Corp about the community buying idea.
- Rebekah reported that \$261,546 will be on the island annual town meeting warrants to fund a fleet of electric school buses. Support will be needed to help this article pass.
- Sue reported that the Cape Light Compact submitted documents to start a Rural Energy Savings program that would fund solar/battery projects for all. (*Sue will confirm whether the program is for all income groups*) Spending is down 57% at the Compact due to COVID slowing down many programs. Kate asked if blower door tests are still be conducted and asked Sue to look into that as well.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday February 9, 8:30 am.

Marc Rosenbaum will be attending to discuss what process we could use to develop a master plan as to how to improve the energy efficiency of our Town buildings.

Upcoming possible topics

More about Green Communities: how we are doing with efficiency and how we can do better.

Possible letter to be sent to Building Managers about their energy performance.
 Vineyard Power/Vineyard Wind's community benefit funds and how we might utilize our share of it in West Tisbury
 Vineyard Power idea of an Energy Coach