



September 26,

2022

Cynthia Mitchell, Chair
West Tisbury Select Board

Dear Cynthia,

I write to introduce myself as the new and first Energy Planner at the Martha's Vineyard Commission. The Energy Planner is one of two new climate-related jobs on the island. Both have been funded with support from the Martha's Vineyard Vision Fellowship¹. I will be working on regional energy issues such as: island energy resilience projects, Eversource grid modernization and resilience and electrification of the Steamship fleet.

Today I am writing to you about the formation of an Eversource working group that I am hoping will have representation from each of the Towns and County, the MVC Climate Action Task Force and Vineyard Power. This group will support the work of Eversource engineers in developing a strategic plan that includes a design for our island's electrical infrastructure to meet the needs of an increasingly electrically-powered world and to ensure that we are prepared for times of prolonged power failure when having access to energy and potable water will be of concern. This work supports both the Towns' resolution to meet the goal of 100% electric from renewable sources by 2040, and a stated goal in the recently completed Island Climate Action Plan.

The MVC Climate Action Task Force has been conducting a series of meetings with Eversource over the course of the last few years. The fifth cable and accurate load forecasting are important projects already underway due to this partnership. The formation of this working group will formalize our connection to Eversource and ensure that as work is done in a particular town, that

¹ Through the same Vision Fellowship grant an accompanying Energy Transition Coordinator position was also established and working at Vineyard Power. They will be focused on supporting individuals and businesses in making the transition to 100% electric. These two positions are two year pilots to show efficacy before becoming full-time.

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

t 508-693-3453 – f 508-693-7894 – P.O. BOX 1447 – 33 NEW YORK AVENUE – OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557

REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY OF DUKES COUNTY – SERVING AQUINNAH, CHILMARK, EDGARTOWN, GOSNOLD, OAK BLUFFS,
TISBURY & WEST TISBURY

the need for the work with regard to the goals stated above is understood and that any significant changes are known and approved by town leaders.

I have been meeting with each of the island town's energy or climate committees, all of whom are doing good work! I would like to suggest that you appoint me, chair of your Energy Committee, to serve in this role and report back to you on a regular basis to keep you apprised of progress being made and to check in with you about any decisions that may directly impact our Town.

If you would like me to come to a Board meeting and explain this further, please do not hesitate to ask. Or, if you have other issues that you would like to discuss that you think are within my domain, please also contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kate Warner", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Kate Warner, Energy
Energy Planner,
Martha's Vineyard Commission
509 694 3453 x113

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

t 508-693-3453 – f 508-693-7894 – P.O. BOX 1447 – 33 NEW YORK AVENUE – OAK BLUFFS, MA 02557

REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY OF DUKES COUNTY – SERVING AQUINNAH, CHILMARK, EDGARTOWN, GOSNOLD, OAK BLUFFS,
TISBURY & WEST TISBURY