

January 12, 2020

Dear Conservation Commission,

The Selectmen have formed a Climate Action Committee to plan for and respond to the impacts that the climate crisis will bring. We are currently meeting monthly on the first Wednesday of the month, 4:30, at the Public Safety Building. I am the chair. Other current members are: Russ Hartenstine (Emergency Manager), Rob Hauck (Library Board), Sue Hruby (Energy Committee Chair), Virginia Jones (Planning Board), Donna Paulnock (Conservation Commission), Garrison Vieira (Police Department), and Faren Worthington (at large).

One of the first pieces of business has been to review the action list that was created at the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness workshop that was held in 2018. Leaders and others representing various town interests participated in that workshop alongside others from Chilmark. You can download the full report on the town's website.

In reviewing the list, it has become clear that certain items are within the domain of your board. They are as follows:

**Stormwater Management, Infrastructure Improvement**

Stormwater Infrastructure/management incl: Mill Pond, Look's Pond, Priester's Pond

Salt Marsh Habitat: allow retreat

Stormwater collection & discharge: map

Roads: Raise parts of Tiah's Cove Road

Roads: Establish South Road as a critical facility

Roads: reduce flood impacts, from streams&brooks at road crossings

Roads: work with Joint Transportation Comm on plans for roads vulnerable to Sea Level Rise

Ponds, Wetlands, Streams: water quality, culvert replacement, reduce flood impacts

Beaches: Allow retreat. Nourishment, minimize storm impacts, dune restoration with vegetation (a few of these will require coordination with the Highway Department and perhaps Planning Board.)

Our hope is that you will review these and determine a 1-5 year plan as to how you will address these items and report back to us. This list is not comprehensive but is the things that were identified as needing to be addressed at the MVP workshop. Our hope is that these will be a starting place from which your board will start to consider the climate crisis when making all decisions that come before you. And that you will address other items, as needed, as things unfold.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission has also applied for an MVP grant and if they are successful, there will be regional consideration of climate issues that you will be asked to be part of. In addition, an MVC intern will be gathering data this spring from each of the towns to create a report as to our island's vulnerability as we currently understand it to be. You may also decide that you want to meet with the other town Planning Boards to see if you can come up with strategies together.

Please let me know if you have questions or would like me to come in and explain this further. Otherwise, we hope you will let us know what your plans are to address the items on your list and any other ways you are preparing for climate change.

Some of the other towns have also applied for and received MVP grants for working on climate issues in their town or analyzing them further. If you feel items on your list require additional expertise, also please let us know.

Many thanks for your help with this and we look forward to hearing from you,

Kate Warner