

Minutes
Climate Advisory Committee
June 3, 2020, 4:30 pm by Zoom call

In Attendance: Russ Hartenstine, Sue Hruby, Virginia Jones,
Rob Hauck, Garrison Vieira, Donna Paulnock, Faren Worthington, Kate Warner

Minutes approved from May meeting.

1. Kate and Sue reported on CLEAR grant from Mass Clean Energy Center. Town received a grant that gives us engineering services to determine how to make 6 town buildings more resilient in prolonged power failures. It is for engineering design, not installations. Buildings to be studied are: Public Safety Building, Fire Station 1, School, Library, Town Hall and Howes House.

2. Rob presented an Emergency Preparedness document with a history of previous Vineyard hurricanes and pages on how to prepare for a hurricane, what to do when a storm is coming and some extra information.

- He amended his document to add a provision about potable water needed/person.
- It was suggested that adding information about: registering for Code RED, emergency telephone numbers and our local radio stations would be helpful.
- Also need to know what public water supplies are available during a storm event and the days afterwards when people might not have power and water at home
- Discussion of a map that would show locations of public water supply, shelters, location of official shelter at Oak Bluffs School and an emergency route to the hospital from West Tisbury that does not rely on using Beach Road. Rob will ask Chris Seidel at the MV Commission to help with this. *It needs to be noted on the map that not all shelters will necessarily be open – people will need to check with authorities at time of storm.*
- Map is to be checked by Fire and Police Chiefs for approval of emergency route and also by Highway Department. Garrison will drive the route to check it himself first.

Question of how to disseminate Emergency Preparedness document and format

- Suggested it be map one side, information on the other.
- Could it go out with tax bills?
- Post on town website—front and center and also on Emergency Manager's page
- Article/alert in newspaper
- Both this document and fire safety one will need to be translated into Portuguese.

3. Sue presented information on Fire Preparedness. Key is prevented ember entry and reducing flammable materials in close proximity to the house. *Some of the fire safety suggestions conflict with best practice re climate change.* Document may be particularly important to those living near the State Forest. Pitch pines may be of greater concern. Suggested sequence of work--

- a rough draft be presented to the Fire Chief now for his comments.
- Sue and Faren to work refining the document. Once done, document to be given to Fire Chief for his review.
- Sue, Faren, Garrison and Russ meet with Fire Chief to get his feedback and approval.

4. Ginny raised concerns about current State Forest management. Chris Bruno is gone and someone is coming over from the Cape only a few days/week. Kate reported that she had heard that the DCR is looking for a replacement for Chris. Housing is an issue. There is a house there but it may take an Act of the Legislature to be able to use that for the employee. Russ said that the State Forest is backed up by the West Tisbury, Edgartown and Chilmark Fire Departments. He said Alex Schaefer, Edgartown Fire Chief, is keeping an eye on it now.

Suggested way to move forward on this:

- Letter of concern to be drafted by Ginny for review by our committee
 - To go to Alex Schaefer, Martina Thornton (County Manager) and other island Fire Chiefs- to get their backing.
- Letter to Rep Dylan Fernandes if then appropriate

10. Next meeting is Wednesday July 1, 4:30 via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm

Committee List of Who is Doing What

Donna- work on overlap of current town bylaws and regulations with MVP action list with Ginny. Determine where things need to be changed or added.

Faren- work with Sue on Fire Safety, work on larger plan document

Garrison- check and approve emergency route to hospital and serve as liaison with WT Fire and Police Departments

Ginny- work with Donna on the MVP/bylaw work. Draft letter to Fire Chiefs and County re State Forest.

Kate- help Rob with Emergency Plan, find out about public water supply, work on larger plan document

Rob- continue to work on Emergency Plan document with Kate

Russ- provide info as needed for Emergency Plan document, help with outreach to island Fire Departments

Sue- work on Fire Safety document with Faren.