

Minutes
Town of West Tisbury
Climate Advisory Committee

Tuesday, January 3, 2023
5:00pm, Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: Nicola Blake, Russell Hartenstine, Sue Hruby, Garrison Vieira

Absent: Ginny Jones, Kate Warner, Donna Paulnock

Also Present: Amelia Smith (assistant)

Minutes Approved February 7, 2023

Meeting convened at 5:15 PM

1. Minutes of Dec 6, 2022 meeting approved.
2. Report on Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Climate Action Plan (<https://www.thevineyardway.org/action-plan>):
The CAP steering committee met on December 9th. They discussed the need for prioritization of action items to share with town boards and commissions. The MVC plans to take on coordinating an island-wide community database, with vulnerable populations, people that need to be checked up on in an emergency.

New Title 5 septic system requirements are coming up on the Cape, to deal with nitrogen problems. This may include mandated upgrades in some places on the Cape. Mass DEP is having some public hearings about this. On the Vineyard, the aquifer is further below the surface so the situation is different, but we're all in watersheds. It will be extremely expensive and townspeople need to be aware of that if it's coming here.

Liz Durkee at the MVC is preparing a presentation for Conservation Commissions and Finance Committees to talk about the cost of climate change. Nicola will talk with Donna Paulnock about this.
3. Julia Livingston is happy to talk with us about the questions that the Edgartown Climate Committee used to talk to the Edgartown committees and boards. She said that they approached the chair of each committee for a small informal one-on-one meeting. Some met with them, some wanted them to go to the whole committee, and in some cases they talked to the staff person.
4. Discussion of potential joint Climate Committee meetings:
The Island could have a joint Climate Committee, something a little like the Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee (VSEC), but not necessarily under the auspices of the

MVC. Amelia will call or send a personal email to the chair of each Climate or hybrid Climate/Energy committee about whether they would like to convene an informal all-island climate committee.

5. Emergency Manager update:
Last month Russ went to the regional Emergency Manager meeting in Framingham. There is a \$5000 grant available for training but he doesn't have an appropriate program for that. He called for more volunteers and says that if his budget is approved he will run a class.
6. Nicola asked if people were seeing the things she had posted on the Facebook page, and urged people to like and share those posts so that they get traction and more people see them.
7. Potential WT Library Presentations on Climate:
Some ideas included a climate-themed book club, a presentation about what people can do, native plant landscaping in conjunction with Polly Hill Arboretum and/or Biodiversity Works, Healthy Buildings, and Emergency Preparedness.
Nicola will circulate a list of ideas for discussion at the next meeting and will talk to the library program director. Ahead of Town Meeting.
8. Sue will call Bruce about putting the committee's budget in ahead of town meeting.
9. Nicola will write the report on the committee's work this year.

Next Meeting: Feb 7, 2023 05:00 PM