

Minutes

West Tisbury Climate Advisory Committee

Wednesday, October 5, 2022

5:00pm, Virtual meeting via Zoom

Approved November 2, 2022

Present: Nicola Blake, Russell Hartenstine, Sue Hruby, Beckie Scotten Finn, Garrison Vieira

Absent: Virginia Jones, Kate Warner, Donna Paulnock, (Robert Hauck (resigned))

Also present: Amelia Smith (assistant)

Meeting opened at 5:05 PM

1. Minutes of August 3, 2022 approved.
2. Discussion of the recently published Climate Action Plan (CAP), which can be found at <https://thevineyardway.org/action-plan>:

Nicola Blake gave an overview of some of the information in the Climate Action Plan for the committee to look at, organized by thematic group.

- a. **Land Use, Natural Resources, and Biodiversity:** Standards for the use of native vegetation will be established by the MVC (Martha's Vineyard Commission), but the Climate Committees should be involved in implementation (e.g. at Town Meeting). Sue suggested that Donna (not present) might take the lead on that because of her position on the Conservation Commission. Beckie offered that the Climate Advisory Committee can be useful in helping folks understand what the Climate Action Plan objectives mean – which fits within our mission of “enhancing community understanding and engagement in the climate crisis.”
- b. **Transportation, Infrastructure, and Waste.** Identify critical vulnerable roads and infrastructure. Most of this will be led by the MVC, which will “Develop a regional protocol for Town by Town assessments and establish island-wide community values in the face of climate change to guide town assessments.” The CAP designates “Town Climate Committees” as taking the lead in the final assessment phase (to be completed by 2026). It was noted that we will need to interact with many other Town Committees to make sure they have a “heads up.”
- c. **Public Health and Safety:** The action items in this thematic group of the CAP are designated primarily to the Dukes County Emergency Management Association and Town Emergency Managers, but other Climate Committees are already involved with emergency preparedness work. It is suggested in the CAP that Towns use the more developed Aquinnah CERT plan as a model/test case for preparedness. Beckie, as an Aquinnah CERT team member, explained more about Aquinnah CERT team.

Russ (our WT Emergency Manager and Committee member), explained that critical infrastructure has been reported to Eversource, and in case of disaster we have a list of buildings that can get turned on faster (school, library, etc.). He says that he does not currently have the resources for full on CERT team training. Sue and Nicola proposed a subcommittee meeting directly with Russ and his team to establish a better-defined role for this Committee in order to support Emergency Preparedness for WT. Sue suggested that it might be good to do a pilot program in 2023 with a smaller section of town, maybe one with an active road association.

- d. **Energy Transformation:** This thematic group is focused on the development of Island-wide resilience standards and guidelines. It was felt that this was not directly relevant to this committee at this time - but that we would endeavor to help Town and County Emergency and Energy Planners where requested, especially with regard to furthering public understanding and awareness of this crucial topic.
- e. **Other responsibilities of the towns:**
 - i. On getting information out and available, Russ suggested updating the emergency preparedness flyer. Garrison asked that it make clear that the public water sources are for catastrophic events, not for everyday use. Sue suggested that we may need a more user-friendly way of getting information out, rather than just the town website. Russ informed us that Code Red is going to be superseded by another system and that there's now a regional emergency manager, and emergency managers are working on this as a group.
 - ii. Sue suggested that there needs to be fiscal planning to address loss of tax revenue from loss of property due to sea level rise, and to make sure that Kathy and Bruce (et al.) have that on their radar.
3. Nicola said that the Tisbury Climate Committee has been getting people to come in and speak and thought that we should know more about what the other climate committees on island are doing. Amelia was tasked with facilitating this.
4. Amelia updated the committee on her organization of the survey results and discussed possible coordination with the MVC and other town Climate committees, as well as preliminary research into grant resources.
5. Before the next meeting Nicola and Sue were tasked with pulling together a set of actions from this meeting in advance.

Meeting adjourned 6:00 PM

Next Meeting: November 2nd, 2022, 5:00 PM