

**Minutes**  
**Town of West Tisbury**  
**Climate Advisory Committee**

Tuesday, December 6, 2022  
5:00pm, Virtual meeting via Zoom

Present: Donna Paulnock, Kate Warner, Nicola Blake, Russell Hartenstine, Beckie Scotten Finn, Sue Hruby, Garrison Vieira

Absent: Ginny Jones

Also Present: Amelia Smith (assistant)

**Approved Jan. 3, 2023**

Meeting started at 5:05

1. Minutes of Nov. 2, 2022 approved.
2. Report on the MVC Climate Action Plan (CAP), Nicola began with an update of the CAP and how it will affect the planning for the town and boards. The CAP steering committee and MVC are working on floodplain, native landscaping bylaw, and percentage disturbance for new developments guidelines.

Kate emphasized the need for the MVC to prioritize action items in the CAP before taking it to town boards, and said that the plan will be more effective if it's prioritized. She also said that each of the topics needs a champion; Kate does that in her role as Energy Planner for the Energy section, IGI leads the food section, and Liz Durkee spearheads natural resources work, but no one is taking the lead on health and public safety.

Beckie said that things have been prioritized in the natural resources section of the CAP and that action steps that are already being worked on. These include biodiversity studies and landscape planning.

Donna, as Conservation Commission Representative, said that the Conservation Commission needs information that they can use, a clear message.

Nicola suggested asking for a 10-minute slot at committee meetings to introduce the Climate Advisory Committee (CAC) and the CAP. Russ expressed a willingness to go to meetings to introduce the CAC. Nicola also said that it would be good to have someone from the planning board at the CAC meetings. Sue and Nicola will work on this.

3. The Edgartown Climate Committee developed a set of questions to use in conversations with town departments and committees about climate change, which

the CAC is considering using as a model. Nicola will talk to Julia Livingston of the Edgartown Climate Committee to clarify what their process was and who they talked to, including whether the questions were intended for staff and town departments, and/or for committees and boards.

4. Discussion of CERT training.

Russ reported that emergency managers had a meeting with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency's new director, who mentioned that many towns in Massachusetts are having a problem with volunteerism. Some of these towns are switching to a model of on-the-spot training for disaster-specific volunteers, which is a stop-gap measure. Russ said that the Aquinnah and Chappaquiddick groups are not formally trained CERT teams. He stressed the need to find volunteer leaders for the CERT teams and to make those teams official CERT teams so that they would have access to funding and other resources through the emergency managers.

Russ asked for the CAC to spearhead an effort to get volunteers. Nicola mentioned an emergency preparedness presentation that was done at the Oak Bluffs Library for families, sponsored by OBPL and MVCS. Kate said that the committee needs to know what they are doing before calling for volunteers.

There was also discussion of completing the information on road associations from the survey results, as a resource for communication about emergencies and emergency preparedness. Amelia is working on this.

5. Beckie Scotten Finn reported that she is no longer a West Tisbury resident so she will be bowing out of the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM. Next Meeting January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2023 at 5:00 PM