

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

Tuesday, February 7, 2023  
5:00pm, Virtual meeting via Zoom

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

Absent: Ginny Jones, Kate Warner, Donna Paulnock

Also Present: Amelia Smith (assistant)

**Approved March 14<sup>th</sup> 2023**

Meeting convened at 5:10 PM

1. Minutes of January 3, 2023 approved.
2. Nicola reports that Ginny Jones is looking for someone to take her seat as the Planning Board representative to this committee.
3. Report on Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) Climate Action Plan (CAP): At the January meeting, the CAP committee's name was changed to The Climate Action Plan Community Coordinating Committee (CAPCCC), and that committee will also serve as the Climate Action Fund Advisory Board.
  - The CAPCCC will compile a list of actions from the CAP that require action at the town level, and are prioritizing those.
  - The CAPCCC discussed updating the town floodplain bylaws, possibly in the 2024 town meetings, and are also working on wetlands bylaw regulations.
  - The Farmer's Market will be accepting SNAP. Kitchen space has been secured for year-round food processing, in coordination with Island Grown Initiative.
  - The CAPCCC is working to get an accurate count of the year-round population.
  - The Transportation Infrastructure and Waste committee are designating a liaison to the SSA.
  - In Public Health and Safety, they are in the process of consolidating the vulnerable populations database, island-wide. Russ will be the head of the Vulnerable Populations study group.

- They are working on putting a new drum composting facility at Oak Bluffs transfer station.
- Nicola plans to send out an update to this committee soon after the CAPCCC meeting this month, rather than waiting until our next meeting to report on it.

4. Emergency Manager:

- Russ is working on making an MOU with the CERT team of another town in central or Western Massachusetts, so that the island can evacuate to that town in case of an emergency in which we have advance warning to evacuate.
- The \$5000 grant discussed last time *will* in fact be available. The Committee will look for an appropriate program for fire safety, emergency training, recruitment, etc. Some suggestions included CPR training for interested people, pulling together flyers on what to do in a hurricane or other disaster, buying “go bags” to give away, or training in the proper use of fire extinguishers. Russ said that he could demonstrate the fire training at the Climate Action Day in May (see below).
- Russ and Beckie will do some research on these possibilities and will bring it to the committee for review next month.

5. The MVC Climate Action Task Force sent out a letter about the Woodwell Climate Research Center Risk Assessment Program. Woodwell will be looking at fire risk, precipitation and drought, and extreme weather events, and is looking for more suggestions. The letter calls for a representative from each town.

Russ wonders if they are looking at the aquifer and vector borne diseases, along with other health impacts. Nicola says that the MVC is establishing a Dukes County Health Council Climate Subcommittee, which will be putting together a bilingual tick information sheet. They also plan to make a survey of health officials about their awareness of climate related health issues.

Nicola will go to the meeting meeting. Beckie will be there already as one of the tribal liaisons. Nicola will let people know about the time and date of the Woodwell meeting in case anyone else wants to attend.

6. Beckie shared a link from USGS about the effect of sea level rise on the Vineyard’s single source aquifer. The USGS are looking at the encroachment of sea level rise on the aquifer as well as pesticides and other things that might intrude on it, including ocean acidification which will negatively impact shellfish populations.  
<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/new-england-water-science-center/science/effects-sea-level-rise-and-climate-change>

7. Upcoming events:

- The Climate Café will be this Sunday, February 12, at Rosewater in Edgartown from 10-11 AM, with the Charter School and the MVRHS Protect Your Environment Group.
  - Ferries Now will be an event at the MV Film Center on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. It is sponsored by the MVC, with speakers from Denmark, Maine, and Washington State, and a report from the Steamship Authority, and explore electrification of the SSA's ferries.
  - The Oak Bluffs Library will begin a series of climate conversations on March 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Nicola and Amelia will be talking to the West Tisbury Library later this week about a potential climate book group.
  - Beckie reports that the CAP education committee will be putting together a climate action day on May 7<sup>th</sup>, with things like how to mend and clothing clothing, repair bicycles, and otherwise reduce household waste. The Climate Action Day will be held on May 7<sup>th</sup>.
  - Nicola mentioned the ICAN (Island Climate Action Network) emails as a good resource for upcoming events and other news. She also urged everyone to follow the Facebook page and share those events.
8. Nicola submitted the Climate Advisory Committee's report for the West Tisbury Annual Report.
  9. Coordinating with other Island Climate Committees: Nicola has made contact with Edgartown and Oak Bluffs and will be following up with Chilmark. Amelia made contact with the Vineyard Haven committee.
  10. Nicola and Amelia, under the auspices of the Energy Committee, got a proposal to install EV chargers at the West Tisbury School. They took that proposal to the Select Board and Capital Improvements Committee. The Energy Committee has submitted a warrant article to fund the chargers, and Nicola and Amelia are seeking partial funding for the project through Mass EVIP and Eversource Make Ready programs. The Energy Committee will be following what happens in Chilmark with its Level 3 (DCFC) charger before working towards installing one in West Tisbury.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15

**Next meeting March 7<sup>th</sup> 2023, 5:00 PM**