

Minutes--

Feb 3, 2021, 4:30 pm by Zoom call

Approved March 3, 2021

In Attendance: Beckie Finn, Russ Hartenstine, Sue Hruby, Ginny Jones, Donna Paulnock, Kate Warner, Faren Worthington (*Garrison Vieira absent*)

Guests: Elizabeth Durkee, Nicola Blake

1. Minutes from January 6, 2021 approved.

2. Liz Durkee, new and first MVC Climate Planner introduced herself.

- Will focus on 5 things: education, energy, adaptation, health and human services, economic impacts
- Applying for a Phase 2 grant to create a climate adaptation plan. Hoping to hire a consultant who can think big about what we should do here.
- Mentioned Storm Tide Pathways work and that it will produce real-time data with regard to flooding during storms.
- Will help Planning Boards to update bylaws particularly to do with flood zones
- Offers help of MVC to help towns prioritize climate adaptation strategies and find funding for projects
- Will help to coordinate the work of each town's climate committee work

Sue mentioned that VSEC has been very successful in coordinating each town's efforts. Recommended that Liz speak to Rob Hannemann about that.

Russ asked about the need for Storm Tide Pathways matching funds from the Town. Liz said Jen Rand was going to put WT funding for this on our annual Town Meeting warrant.

3. Update on Tiah's Cove Road culvert failing, cracking, parts deteriorated.

Liz asked what grant was applied for that WT did not get?

Repair may appear on the TM warrant-- \$110,000. Not yet decided by Selectmen.

4. Zoning Bylaw work by Donna

Issue raised that some of the bylaws are part of MVC-established overlay districts: Coastal district, Roads district, Wild and Scenic North Shore district

Next steps:

- Liz will help with islandwide amendments to the overlay districts and to flood plain regulations
- Liz will coordinate islandwide planning board work
- **Ginny will bring Donna's work before the Planning Board for discussion and further work**

Faren raised question about coastal districts and flood plains. Liz explained that the coastal district is an islandwide overlay district, the floodplain maps are done by FEMA and are out of date and don't take sea level rise into account.

Also mentioned how to reach her durkee@mvcommission.org 508-560-7324

5. Questionnaire update

We have received about 350 back (of 1700 sent out)

Beckie will set up a system for collating the data. Committee members have agreed to help enter in the data once Beckie has it set up.

Russ said that second wave would be finding a way to reach the summer people.

6. Resilience grant update

Possible solar canopy above the row of parking adjacent to Field Gallery was reported upon.

Meeting Feb 22, 5:30 with Historic Commission to discuss this idea. May or may not go forward.

Discussion of VTA battery location: at Town Hall or maybe at Library? Just being investigated –no way forward determined as yet.

Ginny mentioned that there are water tanks- for firefighting- underground at Town Hall and at Library (?) that need to be taken into consideration.

Lithium-Ion battery discussion:

- Question of fire hazard of batteries brought up.
- Kate reported on the Clean Energy Center meeting in which it appeared this was not a significant issue. That the battery banks have fire suppression systems.
- Faren noted that MA is behind the rest of the country about fire code and batteries (at least on residential side of things)
- Mentioned that batteries need to be in a conditioned space.
- **Ginny will look further into fire hazard of this type of batteries. Suggested that she will ask the Coast Guard, among other things.**

7. Green Communities program and School

Kate reported that steps are being taken to add the school to our green communities program. That will be the first step in moving towards greater efficiency at the school and preparing it to be our shelter in extreme weather events.

8. Fire Preparedness discussion

- Russ would like to schedule meetings with the road associations along the Old County Road and identify from those meetings what is of concern to them and how we can help. Also looking for volunteers to do CERT training.
- Mentioned that we need a simple cover letter to send them about reviewing fire safety and evacuation routes.
 - **Russ said he would come up with an outline as to what these meetings should cover and a draft of the cover letter.**
- **Rob said he would help Sue and Russ with this work and will help coordinate the list of road association leaders.**
 - He has already been in touch with Stony Hill and suggested that Great Plains community be invited to the Stony Hill meeting.

Next meeting will be devoted to fire issues. Dan Doyle will be with us from the MVC to discuss what is happening with the State Forest. Russ, Sue and Rob will discuss things listed in No 8 above.

(Garrison was unable to attend meeting. Will tell us what has transpired with Jim Malkin re North Road corridor soon.)

Meeting adjourned abruptly at 5:45 pm

Next meeting is March 3, 4:30 pm