

Minutes--

April 7, 2021, 4:30 pm by Zoom call

Approved 5/5/2021

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

Guest: Noli Taylor

1. **Minutes** from March 3, 2021 approved.

2. Noli Taylor described the **emergency preparedness process in Aquinnah**.

Started with a dinner to discuss what is needed in Aquinnah. Got a good cross-section of the town (old, young, tribal members, non-tribal residents, newer and more long-standing residents). Not all who came were thinking about climate change. Brought the town together.

Question asked: What do we need to do to be prepared for emergencies?

Three groups evolved from this meeting:

- Training and Education- focus has been on practical hands-on kinds of things—not on being EMTs.
 - Focus on trauma: First Aid and CPR.
- Sheltering – review what they have now.
 - Tribal Shelter went through the Red Cross (RC) certification. Working now on a proper plan: what materials needed. Have a trailer to store materials. They have a COVID dispensing plan so that is serving as a model for what needed for shelter.
 - Town Hall is becoming a "warming or cooling" place. Place to get information, coffee, charge your phone during an emergency. For up to 90 people for 3 days. They are doing resilience work on building (solar and batteries) so will have power there. Did a RC training for volunteers. Will be doing some walk-throughs with emergency personnel and volunteers so they can be sure they are ready for a possible hurricane. (how to register, where to prepare food, how to be sure about COVID issues)
- Communications- if power out, how know who needs help?
 - Sent out a survey, now have a digital version (MVC helped with this.)
 - Have neighborhood captains with handheld radios they got from Amazon. Coordinated these people with the emergency personnel. Hoping this will help focus on where electricity should be restored first: where are the people who rely on electrical-powered medical equipment, where are the people with generators?

Key Strategy: Let the townspeople determine the path first before saying what will be done. It empowers people.

- "Let's get together and figure it out."
- What are practical steps we can do now?
 - Hurricane might happen this summer. (as opposed to following rules and regulations.)

Question asked: how to do that "happy thing" Aquinnah did on Zoom? And with a town like West Tisbury that is much larger?

Discussion about using wildfire preparedness as the way in – using road associations along the Old County Road to begin the process. (Road Assoc. question: what are your concerns?)

"Let's get together and talk about what to do."

Beckie stressed the value of a kick-off meeting in which you say –

"This is your town/place. What makes it amazing? How do we preserve that?"

Aquinnah CERT meetings are first Thursday of the month at 5:30 via Zoom. May be conducted outdoors in the warmer months.

3. **Emergency Response Survey**

- 143 people said yes to CERT training. 40 people said maybe.
Decided to send out a letter thanking them for their interest and suggesting a kick-off meeting in June. And then do the CERT training in the fall.
Suggestion of some first aid training in the summer?
Russ will draft a letter by Monday. Kate will then solicit help from others in polishing it up.
- Issue of a number of people not supplying contact information
 - Question whether Town Clerk can supply some of the missing information
- Issue of lack of CodeRED participation. How reach people to get them to sign up? How reach tenants about signing up?
 - Russ has a couple of signs about CodeRED. He will see about putting one at road at the Public Safety Building, one at the road at the Town Hall.
 - Put something in the town columns about signing up and what CodeRED is.
 - Other places?

4. **Letter of support for the MVC MVP grant application** will be sent by Kate on behalf of both committees.

5. **Resilience grant report** is out. Energy Committee will discuss next steps on April 20th, 8:30 a.m. CAC members welcome to join in.

Kate suggested that if you don't want to read the whole report, please read the first 11 pages. Rob suggested people should read the whole thing.

In summation, the Library is the only Town building ready for resilience and is part of CVEC's Round 6 group to get solar and batteries.

Fire Station One, Public Safety Building and School all need energy efficiency work before they are ready for resilience strategies. Town Hall will get battery back up if VTA battery ends up being installed on TH site, Howes House may be able to conduct their emergency operations elsewhere.

It was reported that most buildings have generators that are over-sized for the emergency loads and this may cause burn-out of generators if appropriate steps are not taken.

6. **Climate Coordinator position** has been advertised. Applications due back by April 12.

7. **North Road emergency corridor.** Garrison reported via email that he suggested Middle Road as more suitable to Jim Malkin. Jim to discuss with his committee and get back to Garrison.

8. **Fire Committee update.** Rob, Donna and Sue met and discussed goals and next steps re: meeting with Old County Road associations as a first step. Sue to review the ideas with Russ and then a document will be sent out to the committee for input.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm

Next meeting is May 5, 4:30 pm