

Minutes
West Tisbury Energy Committee

14 June 2023

APPROVED July 12, 2023

Present: Kate Warner, John Christensen, Michael Gately, Nicola Blake, Sue Hruby

Not Present: Ron Dagostino, Richard Andre

Also Present: Amelia Smith (assistant)

Meeting opened at 8:30 AM

1. Minutes of 10 May 2023 approved, with corrections.
2. John attended the annual meeting of the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative. CVEC is reopening round 6 for the Vineyard because there were no bids in response to the RFP. John will follow up on the necessary paperwork -- Jen Rand has to sign on the project by June 30th, and the Vineyard Power Development Fund have estimated the solar array and battery size that will be needed for the library project.
3. Nicola attended the Cape Light Compact meeting, where she reports that there was discussion about maintaining the 100% renewable label for the CLC, and the Clean Peak standards that are coming in January 2024. It will probably be necessary to make alternative compliance payments until the offshore wind power comes online. The CLC partnership with Vineyard Power Development Fund to subsidize power for low income customers was voted favorably by the West Tisbury Select Board. Final approval still pending from the CLC Board.
4. Maverick's representative came last Tuesday to survey the school EV chargers site, for the Eversource hook-up. School Vice Principal Mary Boyd, Nicola, and Amelia were there. They urged Maverick to try to do the work over the summer, rather than during the school year, and Mary offered assistance with getting ferry reservations if needed.
5. Jen Rand signed the MassEVIP grant paperwork and sent it in.
6. Energy committee purview and structure:
John presented a proposed Select Board Charge to the Energy Committee. The Select Board will be making sure that each committee in town has a charge. In discussion, a few revisions were made, to the committee's satisfaction. At the next meeting, the Energy Committee will elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Clerk. Amelia will send the proposed charge to Jen Rand to be added to the Select Board's agenda.

7. Sue and Nicola met with Leah Smith of the Planning Board, and reported that the planning board is recruiting people for new visioning process. Leah's points were that bylaws need to be unambiguous, clear, and effective, and that the planning board needs support on holding the line, including in floodplain and wetlands bylaws. The Climate Committee could have a role in this.
8. Report on Martha's Vineyard Commission climate meeting on June 10:
Nicola reports that members of all of the island climate committees attended (except Aquinnah). The committees shared their most active areas of work. Edgartown was most active in working to update bylaws.

Edgartown's climate committee has made and distributed cards showing what the town is doing about climate change and what individuals – visitors or residents – can do to mitigate climate change.

Sue reported that they asked that the committees send a letter to Julian Cyr's office about the Bond authority of the Steamship Authority, and that Ben Robinson has sent out a letter that can be used as a guide. Sue also pointed out that the Tisbury port is an Island resource, and the town of Tisbury should not bear the whole cost of maintaining it. Hospital access came up several times in the meeting.

The Climate Committees group plans to meet at least three times a year going forward. Everyone is grappling with what the role of the climate committee should be, and no one has a clear answer.

Meeting ended at 9:17 AM

Next meeting: Wednesday July 12, 8:30 AM