

Approved unanimously 1.11.21. (Ron Dagostino had not yet arrived.)

WT Energy Committee
Minutes
12.8.20

Present: Richard Andre, Nicola Blake, Ron Dagostino, Geoff Freeman, Rebekah Thomson, Kate Warner. (Sue Hrubby-absent)

1. Minutes of Nov 10 approved unanimously.
2. Announcement of next meetings.
 - 12/9 Engineers for Resilience Project will present to the Selectmen.
 - Geoff will represent us and the Airport at the Cape and Vineyard Energy meeting on 12/10.
 - 12/16 MV Commission to present Energy Policy changes to DRI checklist to Selectmen.
 - 12/15 8:30 Optional meeting about VTA and battery bank/other equipment to allow for intermediary induction charging at Town Hall
3. Discussion about the "We Need Your Help" document. Suggestion was to soften the introduction. Other comments included changing the wording around community solar and Vineyard Power and adding a piece about less hard-scaping. Ron, Rebekah and Richard will all send in suggestions to Kate and then the piece will be sent out to all for final review.

WE have to be done with this by December 15 in order to have it approved and included in the January Census mailing.

4. Reports from other committees attended by our group
 - VTA battery installation review committee has not had good response in terms of people willing to serve. Suggestion has been made by Angie Grant that the Energy Committee take this over, with consultation with the Historic District Commission. Kate will set up a Zoom meeting for 12/15 and invite Sean Conley of the HDC and others to the meeting, if Selectmen approve this new approach.
 - Rebekah provided an update on electric school bus situation. An extension to the VW grant has been applied for and there is a line item in next year's budget to pay for the cost of the buses.
 - Richard reported that Vineyard Power has been considering a parking canopy at the high school that would provide for charging of the buses. (paid for out of the Vineyard Wind community benefits money.)
 - Ron reported that VSEC discussion included need to get Tisbury representation on VSEC again. There was also discussion about how to promote and move forward on the energy plan/100% Renewable resolution.
 - Rob Hannemann feels this will be done by the Martha's Vineyard Commission.
 - Richard added that Vineyard Power is considering creating an Energy Coach position, modeled on an idea that the City of Newton is doing. This would also help forward the agenda of the resolution and help residents make the changes we are hoping for.

- Nicola has been working with the Mass Energy Insight data to get a grip on the Town buildings' energy performance.
- Kate raised question as to how we should approach building managers about energy efficiency issues that were observed when the Resilience engineers toured the buildings. Point was made that technological changes are good but behavior and operation of buildings is another.
 - What is the best way to enlist the building managers in helping us keep on reducing energy use?
 - Kate will provide Ron and Nicola with a list of what energy efficiency issues were seen on the field trip.
 - We also have a number of opportunities coming up with Town reports.

Ron and Nicola will draft a letter for EC review that would be sent to each building manager.

4. Kate brought up the Air Source Heat Pump and Hybrid Electric Water Heater handouts. Most have not commented on them.

- Joe Tierney, Building Inspector, is willing to put something on the town website about our favoring all-electric buildings but points out that when a permit is being applied for, it is too late: the building is already designed. He would be willing to have the information to hand out though.
- The MV Builder's Association is also willing to send out information to their members.
- Kate also assembled a list of island architects. Joe says, though, that 25% of applications are from off-island architects.

These documents will be sent back out to the committee for review of content and tone and reviewed at the January meeting.

5. Rebekah presented information about the artificial turf issue.

- It is at the MV Commission Land Use Planning Committee at present. It will be before the full Commission on Jan 14.
- She gave examples of letters others had written. She would like the EC to write a letter.
- A variety of comments were made: both support and concern.

Rebekah will prepare a draft letter for all to review that then can be discussed at the January meeting, taking these comments into account.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday January 12, 8:30 am.

Upcoming possible topics

More about Green Communities: how we are doing with efficiency and how we can do better

Vineyard Power / Vineyard Wind's community benefit funds and how we might utilize our share of it in West Tisbury

Vineyard Power idea of an Energy Coach