

West Tisbury Energy Committee

Minutes, 14 December 2022

Present: Kate Warner, Richard Andre, Ron Dagostino, Nicola Blake, Sue Hruby

Also Present: Amelia Smith (assistant), Michael Gately

Minutes Approved January 3, 2023

Meeting opened at 8:31 AM

Update on EV chargers: Nicola reported that the Select Board asked us to look at Level 3 chargers, maybe at the Public Safety Building, as well as the level 2 chargers for the West Tisbury School parking lot.

The Eversource Make Ready program is not open right now, but they are accepting applications to be put on the waitlist for when it opens again. The Mass EVIP program for Direct Current Fast Charging (Level 3) is still open, and there is funding for municipalities through the Inflation Reduction Act. These programs typically don't cover 100% of the costs, so we likely will need to go to the Select Board and Town Meeting.

Amelia has spoken to sales reps from Sema Connect and EnelX to get quotes for the two types of chargers, and will be speaking with ChargePoint as well. We will compare the quotes as soon as we receive them all.

The Committee expressed a preference for staying with ChargePoint because we already have them for the charger in the library parking lot and they have well-recommended software, as well as possibly better access to on-island maintenance but we are considering a range of options from other vendors in addition to ChargePoint. Nicola and Amelia met with Mike Jacobs of the Chilmark Energy Committee, who are putting in a level 3 charger at the Chilmark School parking lot and received good advice.

There was a discussion of the pricing of charging at the library. Nicola will change the price to reflect the new higher rates.

Report on Town Buildings:

Kate reported that she would be going before the Select Board at 4:30 (Dec. 14th) with results of the committee's September working group meeting and the report on town buildings.

The **school project** is not moving forward at this time. Mark Friedman of the Up-Island Regional School Committee wants to do the school renovation through the

Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) process, which means that no work, including planning, can be done until the school is accepted into the MSBA program.

Kate Secondary spoke to Captain Anthony Gould at Communication Center about **Fire Station 1**. He said that the communication center there is no longer used and not needed except for possibly occasionally by emergency managers.

Eversource has added their new electric work underground on **Panhandle Road** because of town bylaw saying that new electric work has to be underground. On Middle Road, there are new poles but the new service hasn't gone in yet because Chilmark wants the wires buried at for least for 1/2 mile from town hall to Keith Farm to preserve the scenic aspect of that stretch of Middle Road, which would be at the town of Chilmark's expense.

Discussion of warrant articles for Spring Town Meeting:

Specialized Code:

The Specialized Code is similar to the Stretch Code except that houses over 4000 square feet are required to have a solar array, for a fossil fuel home. For a home that is all electric, the numbers for required HERS ratings are the same as they are in the new Stretch Code. Mark Rosebaum is going to VSEC (Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee) meeting next Wednesday at 5:00 to discuss the code. Kate urges everyone to go to that meeting. She says that many towns have already adopted the specialized code and that we will need to have public hearings and explain it to people, and that it should be presented to the Select Board. It was agreed that the committee will take this to the Select Board to be put on the town warrant.

Pool bylaw:

Kate talked to the Zoning Board of Appeals about the pool heating bylaw. Chilmark is working on their pool bylaw, and has taken a draft to Michael Goldsmith at Ron Rappaport's office for review. The plan is to put two versions of the bylaw on the town meeting warrant and go ahead with one or the other of them based on the Attorney General's opinion.

Leaf blowers:

Kate says that she had a call with Mark Sandine of the Lexington Select Board and the Attorney General did not shoot the leafblower law down, but they changed the dates that it would take effect. In Lexington, there was an outcry from all the landscaping companies about the leafblower law, even though they have years to transition to electric leaf blowers. An 1100 name petition was put in, objecting to it, but once it went to town meeting it passed very strongly. Neighboring towns have adopted leaf blower bylaws as well, so it is going ahead in that area of Massachusetts.

Amelia will find out what leafblowers the town has, and whether the town has landscaping contracts that go out for RFPs.

After discussion, it was decided that the committee would not put forward a leaf blower bylaw for the 2023 annual town meeting.

Richard would like to raise the issues of privately owned lines to the Eversource working group committee. The people on private lines don't know who to talk to about problems.

Kate says that Eversource now requires private lines to be entrenched in concrete, which is very expensive.

Amelia will ask Dan Doyle at the MV Commission about map of private lines.

Meeting adjourned 9:31 AM

Next meeting Tuesday 3 January at 8:30 AM