

West Tisbury Energy Committee
Minutes of August 2, 2023 meeting
Via Zoom

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

Absent: Michael Gately

Also Present: Amelia Smith (admin)

Minutes approved 13 September 2023

Meeting opened at 8:30 AM

The **minutes of July 12th** 2023 were approved unanimously.

EV Chargers at the school:

- Kate says that there has been a change at the DPU (Department of Public Utilities), such that funds from third parties get credited against the incentives from Eversource. This change was actually made in 2021 but it is starting to affect projects now.
- Bruce Stone and Jen Rand have been informed of the changes in the available funding.
- John asked why we were putting the chargers at the school and Kate explained that it makes sense to have level 2 chargers in a place where people are going to be for a long time, like school staff. Sue said that it's also a good site for summer people who go to play tennis or go to the State Forest.
- The committee voted unanimously to go ahead with the project under the new conditions.
- Kate and Nicola will be before the Select Board later today (August 2, 2023) to ask them to stop making vehicle charging available for free at Town Hall and Highway Department.

Library:

- Kate says that the meeting was postponed until next week, so the discussion of that project and Rise Engineering's recommendations will have to be postponed until this committee's next meeting.

Next things to work on:

- Kate talked about Resilience Hubs, located in places like community centers and churches where people are used to gathering, which provide emergency electricity along with other services. The island doesn't have the emergency services staff of Red Cross support necessary to have shelters. The Library, Howes House, and Church could act as a resilience hub for West Tisbury. Services year-round that are helpful to the community.
- Ron asked for more clarification on the term "Resilience Hub" and it was suggested that Joe Tierney be brought in on the planning process from the beginning to avoid conflict with the building department, and John said that he would talk to Joe about it.

- Other potential projects will be discussed at the next meeting.

Charge and Mission

- The committee reviewed the proposed Charge and Mission statements for the Energy and Climate Advisory committees. The wording of both charges was adjusted. The committee moved unanimously to send the documents on to the Select Board.

Other discussions:

- There is a Cape Light Compact Energy surcharge petition and Nicola will find out more about that and report back.
- A townspeople suggested to Kate that we should look into getting the highway department to use electric leaf blowers and mowers.
- John introduced a brief discussion of the question: How long does it take electricity to get to your house when you first hook up? The physics of electricity, and whether or not electricity actually flows, were debated briefly.

There was a motion to adjourn at approximately 9:35 AM.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 13, 8:30 AM