

West Tisbury Energy Committee
Minutes of September 13, 2023
Hybrid meeting

Present: John Christensen, Michael Gately, Sue Hruby, Nicola Blake, Richard Andre, Kate Warner (all in person), and Ron Dagostino via Zoom.
Also Present: Amelia Smith (admin)

Meeting opened at 8:30 AM

Minutes approved October 11, 2023

The **minutes of August 2nd** 2023 were approved, with edits.

Housekeeping: John asked that all documents include an author, date, and version, and ideally a path and file name as well. Reports should be sent to the administrator for distribution to the committee. Amelia will establish and post regular working hours (Tuesday and Friday mornings), and she asked for clearer communication about projects and expectations, and for support in time sensitive matters that might come up outside of her working hours or between committee meetings. Kate asked that no information be shared with other town departments before the committee agrees on a message or course of action. Richard reiterated that the committee should speak with a united voice. There were questions regarding the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, and what constitutes a deliberation. Amelia will send out a summary of the Open Meeting Law for committee members' reference. She will also add past documents, including last year's project priority planning spreadsheet, to Dropbox and share an access account for all committee members.

Grants and upcoming projects: The Green Communities funding opportunities open twice per year, but the town can only apply for Green Communities money once a year. John asked that we determine the status of the library project with respect to this fall's Green Communities grant, and determine the next project for that funding opportunity. Kate will ask Margaret at Cape Light Compact about whether the library project will be ready on this round.

New Business:

Kate sent out some information about EV chargers. She reports that there is a public sentiment that chargers should not be free to the public. In addition, the chargers at the town hall and at the highway department currently have only one working head each. Skipper Manter, on the Select Board, has expressed interest in having a "Level 3" charger at the public safety building and Kate shared information about upcoming charger technology. Richard recommended adopting a strategic plan around chargers to avoid spending resources on obsolete technology. There was a discussion of what the committee should recommend to the Select Board with respect to the EV chargers, and members agreed that the chargers should not be free, and that when chargers are replaced they should become paid chargers. Amelia will call Bill Cleary of the Oak Bluffs energy committee to find out about their process and decisions have been around free EV chargers, and will relay what she learns to the committee.

Kate would like to ask the Select Board to support the idea of a Resilience Hub, a daytime facility with water, batteries and chargers, medical help, and food. The church is interested and it would also involve the library and Howes House.

Sue spoke about Bainbridge Island's climate emergency preparedness model, and asked everyone to look at <https://www.bainbridgeprepares.org/> and the book, *Prepared Neighborhoods: Creating Resilience One Street at a Time* to learn more it. She proposed creating a non-profit here to emulate this model. John said that there is state funding available for Community Emergency Response Teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 11th, 2023, at 8:30 AM

Drafted by Amelia Smith, 15 September 2023

Zoom recording available at

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/lf3jkgw8qi9PNYZHXALZjL_OgZ0HXJcGSR_YhSnLVaoiKlsyiGldBISGq7sOOUTA.H7FGnWUHL0twecDL

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