

West Tisbury Energy Committee  
Minutes of October 11, 2023  
Meeting via Zoom

Present: John Christensen (chair), Michael Gately, Sue Hruby, Nicola Blake, Kate Warner,  
Richard Andre, Ron Dagostino

Also Present: Amelia Smith (admin)

These minutes were approved, as revised on November 8<sup>th</sup> by roll call:

John – Aye  
Michael – Aye  
Sue – Aye  
Nicola – Aye  
Richard – Aye  
Kate – Aye

John Christensen called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM

The minutes of September 13 and October 3, 2023 were approved unanimously

Kate proposed discussing EV Chargers first. Amelia presented the costs of several different options. Replacing the existing chargers at Town Hall and the Public Safety Building with the same units would cost approximately \$1000 per two-headed charger. The higher cost of networked chargers themselves may be canceled out by MassEVIP grants, but the price of networking, warranties, and installations increases the projected costs to the town above the cost of the electricity alone. The Federal grant for replacing non-operational EV chargers requires four charger heads at a location, which we do not have, and adding chargers in the parking lot would make the parking lot even more congested than it is now. One option is to leave the Town Hall charger as it is now, with only one head operational, and replacing it after it fails with one with its access restricted to town vehicles.

At the Select Board meeting on Wednesday, October 18, Kate will present our recommended policy, as discussed on October 3<sup>rd</sup>, and urges other members of the committee to attend that Select Board meeting as well. The Energy Committee recommends fee for charge if it is cost effective.

For the proposed Public Safety Building fast charger, Kate is researching the Free Wire charging system, which has a battery. Eversource may offer additional funding beyond their regular Make Ready costs because of the visibility of the site. The electricity would be a separate service for the charger, which is closer to the road, and would not be connected to the Public Safety Building itself. Sue asked for a diagram of the location and said that we should do a payback analysis to see what the project would cost the town. Richard said that this could be part of a strategy of electrifying police cars and other municipal vehicles, and asked for a comparison

Drafted by Amelia Smith on October 13, 2023, revisions by Kate Warner on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

between the FreeWire chargers and other level 3 chargers, taking the Eversource incentives into account. Kate, Amelia, and Nicola will work on this for the next meeting.

John asked if the committee had anything for the budget or Annual Town Meeting (ATM) agenda. Kate would like to put the Specialized Code on the ATM agenda. Richard also supported having the Specialized Code on the ATM warrant. Michael proposed looking at a line-by-line comparison of the Stretch vs Specialized codes at the Energy Committee's next meeting. Kate will compile that comparison. Sue said that someone should discuss the Specialized Code with Joe before the ATM.

Kate will ask fire and police department what vehicles they plan to ask for at the ATM, to see if these might benefit from the proposed Public Safety Building Chargers. The Highway Department might also be able to replace some of its vehicles with electric vehicles. If it looks like we are ready to go ahead with the chargers, that would be a budget item for the ATM.

John said that the committee needs to establish a policy for public outreach and communications with town leaders.

In the review of last year's priorities, the Public Safety Building was identified as the next project for the committee to work on. Sue said that she would prioritize engineering studies. Making the roof solar-ready and the ventilation louvers were discussed. Next steps for the Public Safety Building will be discussed at the next meeting of this committee.

Kate and Sue met with Russ about the resilience hub idea, but he is prioritizing finding CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) volunteers. Sue said that the Energy Committee's responsibility lies with infrastructure, and that we are doing the infrastructure for the library which the emergency managers will be able to use in the future. John said that he was very impressed with the Bainbridge Prepares website, but replicating that model isn't within this committee's purview.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:28 AM.

The next meeting will be at 8:30 AM, November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.