

Tisbury Climate Committee
Meeting Minutes
Zoom Meeting
ID: 830 5564 3388, Passcode: climate
May 12, 2025, 5:30 PM

Attendance: Committee Members: Daniel Phelan, Louise Clough, Rachel Orr, Kate Shands, Bill Straw, Holly Stephenson

While we waited for a quorum, Holly said she had been thinking about retiring from the committee since she has had several health problems and has had to miss a lot of meetings. She suggested that she could do some projects for the Committee, as she and Henry both have backgrounds in planning, but she ended up saying that she would like to stay on the committee and could do so if we continue to meet by Zoom.

Daniel called the meeting to order at 5:36 PM.

Agenda Items:

1. Approve minutes for April 14th meeting.

Louise moved that the minutes of April 14 be approved, Rachel seconded, and the motion passed 5-0, with 1 abstention (Holly).

2. No update about Cape Light Compact grant funding for the Town.

We missed the window for grant funding, as noted at the last meeting. Bill asked about the status of the solar on the Senior Center, and Louise said that no work is being done there. Daniel suggested that we contact CVEC or Vineyard Power. Bill said he could do that, and Daniel noted that solar credits go through 2033.

Rachel said that the BRIC grant and the Five Corners drainage projects have been lost due to cutbacks in federal funding, and the MVC / Army Corps harbor hardening project has either stalled or ended. She added that NOAA is stripping things from their website, including the storm pathways data and other baseline data. More projects will have to come down to the state or local level. In the past, we've had good federal support for social programs and bigger infrastructure projects.

Holly asked if we can do anything about Beach Road, and Rachel said it's a state road, and there's a tricky interface.

Daniel asked what would constitute a failure of the seawall, and Louise said that it's not high enough, and in storms, the water can go over it. Holly asked who is working on it, and Louise said the MVC. Rachel said that the MVC's climate change coordinator, Liz Durkee is retiring in June, and so are senior planner Bill Veno and energy planner Kate Warner. She said that she didn't know what the plans are for replacing those people. She suggested that we communicate with the MVC to let them know that their assistance has been invaluable, and that we want to make sure they're looking to fill

those positions; we could send a letter praising Liz's work. Daniel suggested that we ask Dan Doyle what we should do.

3. Tisbury Energy and Climate related Goals Report– Ongoing (Bill), Final Draft in Works

Daniel said he was hoping to finalize Bill's report and forward it to the Planning Board and the Town Administrator (TA) by Thursday. Bill said he could take it and put in on the TA's desk. Daniel added that he has also been requesting information about the RFP for the car chargers.

4. Committee Updates (ongoing):

- a. Flood Plain By-Law -RESOURCES COMING - Slide Deck from presentation needs forwarding to CONCOM planning board for by-law adoption.**

<https://floodplain-bylaw-revision-planning-dukescountygis.hub.arcgis.com/>

Daniel said he had been sent a bunch of information on the flood plain bylaws and had been working on preparing that.

- b. Meeting “Green Leaders Qualifications”, Decarbonization Roadmap Assistance from DOER**

No new information.

- c. ETIPP- Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project –Environmental concerns of batteries near wellheads. Hand pump modifications on existing private wells and maybe even the Town wells.**

No new information.

- d. EV CHARGERS Park and Ride and 21 Beach St – Notes: Needs to be signed off on by new Town Admin, Possible addition to the RFP for upgrading the charger at the Senior Center and High Point Ln EV Chargers Upgrades cost assessment is somewhere around \$4k. High point as an alternative to the Park & Ride?**

Daniel said he was going to re-send the RFPs for the chargers and asked Bill and Rachel to follow up if they encountered Kirk Metell or Joe LaCivita.

- e. Leaf blowers**

Daniel reported that the leaf blowers by-law passed at Town Meeting, along with an amendment to prohibit use on Sundays. Louise commented that homeowners can use them on Sundays, and Rachel added the electric blowers can be used at any time. Holly asked about timing, and Louise said three years.

5. New Business

Daniel asked what the TCC thought about submitting warrant articles for things that we think are important in time for Town Meetings, for example solar, which pays for itself. Rachel said we need to get savvy with the budget cycle; we thought that we were working closely with the Facilities Manager (FM) and he would handle those issues, but we have a part-time FM, and there hasn't been much involvement. We need to push for solar on the library and add the possibility of panels on the Harbormaster's shack and the bandstand. They are both very public locations. Daniel asked if the bandstand had electric service, and Rachel said yes, there are electric lights, and we should have thought earlier about solar panels there. Daniel said it's never too late. Rachel said the best thing to do would be to get organized in the early fall and write up something to present to the Select Board. Rachel suggested that we invite Kirk and/or the FM to come to our next meeting to talk about the Harbormaster's shack and the bandstand.

Bill commented that we have previously looked at solar panels on the DPW, but we would have to reinforce the roof to do that. The cost might be about \$50,000. Solar panels on the fire station cost \$160,000, so the cost for the DPW would likely be no more than \$200,000. He said that would be the next most likely building and asked about the drop-dead date. Rachel said that Town Meeting is supposed to be in early April but has been late for the last few years. She thought the last date would be December for all articles involving money. She asked if the water department had solar panels, and Bill said that situation at the water department was similar to the DPW, but there, the Town could put modules like the ones in the Cronig's parking lot, so the roof did not have to be an issue, and that would save the Town money. Daniel said the cost would be about the same for the 2 options.

Bill said we need a chart showing when our existing solar panels will be paid off and what the benefits of new panels would be. Daniel said it would be good to have data that show they pay for themselves. Bill suggested that we could propose 5 projects showing the cost of various projects and how much they would save and pass it on to the Town Manager. Daniel said they use projections for price escalations at his business and it turns out to be about 4%, so it would be valuable to do these projects now rather than later. Bill agreed and said we need to have an advertising campaign with flyers that could be distributed at Town Meeting and other meetings as well. Rachel said these projects should be included as a matter of course as we upgrade Town buildings, and an advertising campaign would help to change these projects to automatic. She added that it would be a good message to have solar panels on Town buildings, even if there were only a few. Daniel noted that we should add a wind turbine to the list of projects. There was further discussion about how to let Town officials know that these issues have stalled. Daniel said if he was able to speak to Kirk before the next meeting, he would bring an update.

There was also some discussion about the Town's IT system, which will need immediate repair, and if there is a climate aspect to that. Daniel commented that the Town is likely behind on security issues connected to the IT system.

6. Schedule Next Meeting: June 2.

7. Delayed Proceedings:

- a. **Plan to meet with Tisbury departments on their climate-related issues.**
- b. **Invite new Town Administrator/Manager to our next meeting.**

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Louise, seconded by Bill. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Minutes Submitted by: Kate Shands