

## **Tisbury Climate Committee**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Zoom Meeting

ID: 830 8138 8414, Passcode: climate

June 2, 2025, 5:30 PM

**Attendance:** Committee Members: Daniel Phelan, Louise Clough, Melinda Loberg (late arrival), Kate Shands, Holly Stephenson, Bill Straw, Bruce Stuart

Daniel called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM, and reported that he has a meeting with Joe LaCivita, the Town Administrator (TA) on Wednesday, June 4.

**Discussion:** *[Recorder's Note: Discussions are grouped for clarity and brevity.]*

#### **1. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Louise moved that the minutes of May 12 be accepted, Bill seconded, and the motion passed 6-0.

#### **2. Update of Federal Tax Credits for Energy Related Projects (Trump Effect)**

The House passed a total cancellation of these credits, if they are not started in the next 60 days, and projects must be completed by December 31 to qualify. This cancellation will affect the Elementary School and the Senior Center. Louise said they are planning to put solar on the Elementary School this summer, and Daniel said they plan to put a canopy on the parking lot by October.

#### **3. Update about Senior Center PV + Storage Installation**

Daniel reported that the documents were signed last week by the TA. The plan includes a 13.8 kW AC and 6 batteries in a closet in the basement. Daniel said he told the fire chief he would be happy to help, and Bill said that Vineyard Power said the job would be done in October. Daniel noted that the good news is that this will be the Town's first resilient building.

#### **4. Committee Updates (ongoing):**

##### **a. Meeting "Green Leaders Qualifications", Decarbonization Roadmap Assistance from DOER**

Daniel reported that he was not sure about where this stood, and he would bring it up at his meeting with the TA.

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

Daniel reported that he will have the report finished in time for his meeting with the TA, and that he would send it to everybody tomorrow.

**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.**

Daniel said he was not sure whom we should be talking to about this. It has been Kate Warner's project at the MVC, and it is worth reaching out to them. Melinda said she could do that, because she started working with that team. Daniel said we had talked about doing research on our own about hand pumps, as suggested by Bruce. He suggested that we could make up a flyer about it. Melinda asked how many private wells there are, and Holly said the Water Department might know. Bruce said we needed to know how many houses and how many wells. Melinda said somebody at Town Hall might know, and they might let us stuff a tax bill with the information. She asked if anyone knew what was happening with the Town website, and suggested we could build up our own page. Daniel said Heidi had given him access to the TCC page. Kate suggested that he might add that to his agenda with the TA. Daniel said he would put it in his notes and added that Pam Bennett would be sitting in on the meeting, and she's good at getting things done.

**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 and Ride?**

Daniel said he would show the TA the RFPs and see if we can get at least one signed. He heard from a neighbor that he was surprised we have no Level 3 chargers in Tisbury and that he would have to sit for 3 hours to get a charge. Melinda said other towns have some chargers, and Daniel noted that there is an Islanders EV group on Facebook, and they noted that there are no Level 3 chargers. Melinda wondered if the Chamber of Commerce has a list of chargers, and Kate said she would be happy to talk to them. Bill asked if the Steamship Authority has chargers in Woods Hole, and Bill said the nearest fast chargers he knew of were in Barnstable. He added that the Level 3's are fast, while the Level 2's take hours. Melinda said people have apps that let them know where chargers are located.

**e. New Town Energy Projects Ideas - budget submissions must be forward by Dec 2025**

Daniel reminded us that the date we had come up with for these projects is December 2025. The Senior Center is in the works, as is the school, so the next good candidates would be the DPW, the Harbormaster's shack, and the gazebo at Owen Park. It would be good to get a timeline on the Harbormaster renovation and the library. Kate said she could ask about that at the library fundraising committee meeting this coming Friday. Daniel said there was a proposal a few years ago and he didn't know why it was postponed. Bill said he checked with the engineering firm who looked at the DPW, and the cost was \$50K, but it probably would be double that now. The next project could also be the fire

station or the water company; there could possibly be a canopy at the water company, and we could look at designs that might be less expensive than the ones at Cronig's. Melinda asked if the fire station was on a list, but we missed the deadline? Daniel said yes, we missed the deadline, but hopefully there will still be grants available. Melinda asked if we are still eligible for grant money for the EV chargers, and Daniel said he would follow up with Garrett Cudgma at RLE.

f. **Communicate with Dan Doyle (MVC) about the need for Energy Manager and Climate support positions.**

Daniel reported that he saw Dan Doyle on the ferry, and he said the MVC is going to interview someone. He thought they are actively looking for several people. Daniel said he would call him tonight.

g. **New Business**

Holly said she wanted to ask what the original basis was for establishing the climate committee. She said she was thinking about a shelter and was interested in having a shelter at the Tisbury School. Melinda said the Town has an emergency manager, and they set up and staff shelters. It was Patrick Rolston, but he became the fire chief, so she doesn't know who it is now. She added that she went back to the original charge, and it was to protect and strengthen the health, safety, and resilience of the Town. Holly said that definitely covers shelters, and she would like to invite the emergency manager to a TCC meeting. Bill said every town is required to have a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan, and Tisbury has one. A discussion followed about what systems are in place in which towns, what needs to be in place, and what can be done island wide. Daniel said he will find out who the new Emergency Manager is and invite him to a meeting after we meet with the TA. Melinda suggested we might have a representative attend the Emergency Managers meetings.

5. **Schedule Next Meeting:**

July 21, 2025

6. **Delayed Proceedings:**

- a. Plan to meet with Tisbury departments on their climate related issues
- b. INVITE NEW TOWN ADMIN TO OUR NEXT MEETING

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Louise, seconded by Kate. The motion passed 6-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Kate Shands