

Edgartown Energy Committee
Minutes for Tuesday, May 28, 2019

Meeting called to order 4:30 pm

Attendance

Alan Strahler (Chair), Bonni Widdoes, Carla Cooper, Kara Shemeth

Discussion of Open Meeting Law

- Quorum shall be a simple majority of members present
- Edgartown does not practice certifying the receipt of copy of Open Meeting Law
- Members will share responsibility of recording the meetings, either by written notes or audio recording to be transcribed
- Meeting minutes will be uploaded to the Town website

Discussion of Green Community Designation

- Reade Milne, Asst. Building Inspector is supportive of adopting in Edgartown
- Could be a multi-year process to get adopted in Edgartown
- Would not increase workload of Building Inspector – HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Rater would oversee the Green Community construction requirements
- Applies only to new residential construction
- Town receives \$140,000 = taxpayer savings

REPA (Regional Energy Planning Assistance) Grant

- Submitted by Margaret Song of CLC (Cape Light Compact)
- Contract starts July 1st
- Allows for Town energy audit, cost to mitigate, and plan for implementing mitigation

Other Possible Energy Savings Projects

- Solar panels on Edgartown Library
- Solar canopies/charging stations at Edg. Park & Ride (must include Dark Woods residents early in the process)
- Municipal EV fleet and charging stations
- James Hagerty, Edgartown Town Administrator, can invite EC to present ideas and incentives at monthly Town Department head meetings

Other Energy-Related Meetings

- ICAN (Island Climate Action Network) – Alan distributed notes from their May 6th meeting
- MVC CCTF (MVC Climate Crisis Task Force) – Alan distributed notes from their May 20th meeting
- CLC (Cape Light Compact) Board Meeting – June 12th South Yarmouth, Alan to call in
- CEIC (Cape & Islands Energy Committees) – June 6th South Yarmouth
 - Alan will find out who else attending from Island
 - Meeting will include CVEC Round 5 information

- CVEC (Cape and Vineyard Energy Cooperative)
 - CVEC has bad reputation in Edgartown – unresponsive to problems, solar projects not well done, loud transformers, etc.
 - CVEC currently has an open seat on the Board for an Edgartown rep. Alan will attend the CVEC meeting and convey Edgartown issues to CVEC

Other Future Projects

- VSEC (Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee) – goal of 100% island wide renewable energy on 2020 town warrants
- Solar panels on possible new Edgartown Fire Station
- MVRHS – Green school building?

Action Items

- Carla will put together a list of town-owned properties with a map for future planning purposes
- Alan will find out who is attending the CEIC meeting from the island for carpool purposes
- Alan will attend the CVEC meeting

Next Meeting

- Possible dates June 25 or 27, to be determined by email.

Meeting Adjourned 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Carla Cooper

Documents Distributed:

- Island Climate Action Network Meeting Notes May 6
- Martha's Vineyard Commission Climate Action Task Force Meeting Notes May 20

Island Climate Action Network Notes from May 6th full group meeting

The Island Climate Action Network held its inaugural meeting May 6 at the Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. Approximately 50 people were present. After brief orienting comments and descriptions of three core action areas, we spent the rest of the meeting in working groups planning next priority actions for the Network. The working groups focused on three areas: climate change mitigation/reversal; adaptation; and education. The notes and next steps from each working group are below.

The next full-group ICAN meeting will take place in late September, date and location TBA. Individual work groups will set their own meeting calendars from now until then. In the meantime, please check your email for our monthly newsletter and follow us on Facebook for other local climate-related events and activities. And don't hesitate to reach out by emailing islandclimateactionnetwork@gmail.com with any updates, questions or ideas.

Up-coming events:

- *May 23rd, 3:30-5:30pm*: ICAN's mitigation/reversal working group will meet at the Wakeman Center off of lower Lambert's Cove Rd.
- *May 23rd-26th*: VCS and the Martha's Vineyard Film Society's Environmental Film Festival. See <https://mvfilmsociety.com/genre/2019-mveff/> for more information and to reserve tickets.
- *May 24th*: Felix Neck hosts student summit for island kids from 5th-12th grade
- *May 24th*: Free climate change panel at the MV Environmental Film Festival at the Film Center in Vineyard Haven, with State Representative Dylan Fernandes, Woods Hole Research Center scientists, the Vineyard's Ben Robinson, MVRHS students, and Vineyard Conservation Society's Jeremy Houser
- *May 25th*: West Tisbury Congregational Church hosts film [Taking Root](#) about Wangari Maathai, a leading Kenyan environmentalist who won the Nobel Peace Prize, at the Edgartown Library at 2:30pm

Reversal/Mitigation Working Group

Present: Noli Taylor, Kate Warner, Samantha Look, Nancy Grundman, Jay Grossman, Dan Doyle, Paul Rashba, John Abrams, Jed Katch, Marianne Goldsmith, Rob Hannemann, Dennis Agin, Lucy Menton, Jeffrey Kominers, Sidney Morris, Suzanne Cioffi, Angela Andersen, Brock Callen, Finn Robinson, Peter Meleney, Ann Charnley, Bob Johnston, Mollie Doyle, Eunice Youmans, Jasper Ralph, Emma Bena, Elliot Stead, Harriet Bernstein, Mary Beth Keenan, Kat Monterosso, Thomas Bena

Next steps:

- Meet again in 2 weeks
- Work in three working groups at the next meeting: land/food, buildings/energy use, and transportation
- In each working group, continue prioritizing work areas; sort goals by timeframe for completion: short, medium, and long-term

Land / Food

- Roughly 1,700 acres of farmland on the Vineyard
 - **Regenerative Land Care** *Noli Taylor/IGI*
 - Soil can draw down a huge amount of carbon from the atmosphere if healthy and well-tended
 - Reduce tillage, keep soil covered, plant diversity of species
 - Work with farmers and homeowners/gardeners on this
 - **Food Waste Reduction** *Eunice Youmans/IGI*
 - 6,500 tons of food waste is shipped off-island each year
 - Recovery of food that would otherwise be wasted, to be distributed to islanders in need;
 - Compost.

Buildings / Energy use

- We have 18,000 buildings on MV; 14 Megawatts of solar installed so far
 - **School/ municipal buildings energy audits**
 - **Pass 100% renewables commitment at spring town meetings** *Rob Hannemann/VSEC*
 - **Limit Maximum House Size** *Thomas Bena, Harriet Bernstein, John Abrams*
 - Town by town or
 - With an MVC DRI (development of regional impact) revision
 - Get support from Builders' Association
 - **Deep energy retrofits**
 - Also decarbonizing building process
 - **Building material re-use**
 - Western MA organization coming here to get our salvage materials
 - Coordinating with Builders' Association of MV
 - **Solar/Batteries/Heat Pumps program**
 - Support Cape Light Compact application to DPU (Dept of Public Utilities) for solar systems with battery back up and heat pumps, free for low-income households, sliding scale cost for others
 - **High School - net zero energy user**
 - Be involved with design and planning of new school

Transportation

- **100% electrified VTA** (Vineyard Transit Authority) *Suzanne Cioffi, VTA*
 - VTA is making progress on a plan to have 100% EV buses, fueled by solar at their headquarters in the Airport Business Park, by 2026
- **Electrify school buses, SSA vehicles/buses, rental cars**
- **100% Electric Vehicles on MV by ____**
 - Provide information about cost and use of electric vehicles
 - Set goal for MV of % electric vehicles milestones
 - City of Amsterdam—no fossil fuel vehicles by 2030
 - Convert combustion cars to EVs
 - Increase electric charging stations on MV
 - Provide more stations,
 - Special app for where our stations are or use existing apps
 - Private homeowners allowing others to charge at their station for a fee

- **Other transportation ideas**
 - **Zip Truck business**—share pickups so more people can drive EVs for daily use
 - Bermuda model of **limited number of cars on the island**
 - **Lower cost for SSA ferry ticket if driving an EV**
 - Develop **island-wide bike path network**

Other:

- **Plastics Reduction**
 - Bottling plant to help local food producers use less plastic (like Mermaid Farm yogurt)
- **Political Advocacy**
 - Share opportunities to further progressive climate legislation on local, state, federal level; galvanize voters

Education Group

Present: Betsy Carnie; Sidney Morris; Jonah Maidoff; Jeremy Houser; AnneMarie Ralph; Jana Bertkau

Priorities

ICAN Outreach

- Create a trifold brochure
- Create a website (*Jeremy* offered to help with this)
- Maintain a presence on social media (Need to find someone for this!)
- Continue to build and utilize email list
- Encouraging advocacy (*Barbara*)
- Recruiting people to run for office
 - Ask all candidates about climate change, even on the local level
- Public programming *AnneMarie, Jana*
 - Libraries, etc

Education Meeting Notes

- Supporting more youth movements like Plastic-free MV
 - How do we facilitate work like PFMV?
 - When they are working down-island next year, how can we help?
- Recruit more educators joining MVEAA
- Can more kids give presentations at libraries? The kids are ready, let's get them more forums
- Could the community offer an after-school program on activism re: climate?
- Permanent "displays" or "installations" that would give a visual image of how climate change will affect the island (ex: a yardstick at 5 Corners showing future water level)
- As a network, could we go back to our groups we are part of and ask them to make resolutions re: climate change?
- Myth Busting?!
 - Reference local credible science groups (WHOI and Mass Audubon)
 - Create a trifold
- Find ways to partner more with libraries for classes, workshops, events, etc. Regenerative gardening series was well-attended.
- An ICAN booth at the Fair and all big island events
 - Tivoli Day, Living Local, Farmer's Market
- Host more climate-related films followed by discussion groups
- Recruit more volunteers for our vibrant Thrift Shop/Dumptique culture
 - Both places need more volunteers. Help recruit more helpers.

Education Initial List

- Develop coordinated school-based climate education curriculum
- Partner with island libraries on book collections, display materials
- Develop and implement educational series for Town Boards on local projected climate impacts and what they can do
- ICAN outreach: create a tri-fold brochure, website development, social media, continue expanding email list, send monthly emails
- Hold events and forums for farmers, fishermen and shell-fishers on projected local climate impacts and adaptation/mitigation strategies

- Help educate the community on where to go and what to do in emergency situations
- Write Letters to the Editor and opinion editorials to keep the climate issue and action opportunities visible
- Invite guest speakers and hold public forums about our changing climate, local impacts and ways to take action
- Help people of all ages know how to reduce food waste and know how to compost
- Continue Climate Cafe series for ongoing public dialogue
- Climate walks with Felix Neck
- Poster/visibility campaigns on action opportunities

Adaptation Group

Present: Susan Feller; Hunter Moorman; Erik Peckar; Ben Robinson; Carol Salgoero; Chris Murphy; Jo-Ann Taylor; Suzanne Cioffi; Chuck Cotnoir.

Adaptation Initial List

- Hospital access/ access to medical personnel in each town
- Adequate sheltering capacity in each town
- Food security- expand home and community food production and storage capacity
- Energy storage
- Community Emergency Response teams in each town
- further priorities in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plans in each town
- Develop all-island preparedness plan
- Fund and hire a full-time County Emergency Manager
- State Forest wildfire management
- Zoning Adaptation (planning and zoning boards, MVC etc...)
- Dune, beach, bank and salt marsh restoration
- Storm water management
- Transportation infrastructure
- Economic diversification
- SSA-adaptation plans?

Discussion from the meeting:

Immediate /Emergency

- Storms
- Coastal resilience
- Educational
- How do we build in the coastal flood-zones?
- Protect infrastructure
- Develop supply chain resiliency
 - local circular economy

Cultural/ Long Term

- Economic shifts
- Equity
- The existential question for Vineyarders: who are we in the age of climate change?
What is our global place? What should we become? What do we look like in 20 years?

Q: How do we prepare and adjust?

- Duration of long term damage could be weeks or months
- **For storm events**
- Shelters, services (ie hospital)
- Supply chain disruption
 - food supply length
- Prepared for residences
- Town and county emergency preparedness
 - Emergency management
- Sheltering agreements (MOU)

- Funding for shelters; not enough space currently
- Clarify process of declaring emergency
- Staffing shortage

Q: What is the After-Event Plan?

- Recover from flooding
- Downed trees
- Building damage
- Evaluation planning (no real plan)
- Most tourists will leave upon notice

- **forest fires** (with droughts in particular)
- More fuel, trees, brush, etc
 - “Firewise” (national program)
 - State Forest

Cultural Shifts

- How do we live?
 - Stop digging or don’t do what we have been doing
- Where do we build?
 - Zoning in flood-zones
 - Structural (infrastructure, roads, etc...)
 - Responsible planning (State Forest)
- How do we adapt to a low carbon tourist industry? (economic change)
 - Less cars, less waste

Circular Economy

- Buy Local; Food--- Production--- Use--- Re-Use
- Cost of Carbon?
- EV Usage
- Can our tourist economy survive climate change?

May 20, 2019

MVC Climate Crisis Task Force

Meeting summary

Meeting: 3-5pm May 17, 2019 in the MVC main meeting room

Attendees: Ben Robinson, Joan Malkin, Kathy Newman, Adam Turner, Liz Durkee, Rob Hannemann, Norman Willard, Marc Rosenbaum, Noli Taylor, Alan Strahler, Richard Andre (phone)

Discussion:

Data gathering required

Track Energy

- Fossil fuel usage - heating oil, gasoline, propane
- electrical grid usage
- Building energy usage

Track transportation

- number of cars seasonal v. year round
- track bus ridership
- SSA ridership
- bike usage

Track development

- Building permits
- DRI reviews
- Business expansions
- Open space and habitat loss
- Water quality
- Data used to establish a baseline in which to measure progress towards stated goals.

Master planning categories (master plan should create logical and linear paths to accomplishing goals and objectives)

- Mission statement, long term goal (what do we look like in 10-20 yrs?)
- Energy plan (~50% reduction by 2030, what is the baseline? is this enough? or achievable)
- Transportation (ride-share, public services, car tip (EV or other?))
- SSA role in planning
- Business practices, role in planning
- Buildings (Energy usage, on sit renewable generation, materials and standards)
- Coastal mitigation / adaptation measures (retreat, protect, accommodate strategies)
- Food (Local production / resiliency)
- Consumer goods (Local production / resiliency)
- Landscaping practices (EV, ban biocides)
- Solid waste disposal v. reuse, repurpose, and composting
- Hospital and other municipal or quasi public long term objectives
- Island economic model sustainability, sufficiency, and what is a tourist resort in the age of climate disruption?

- Process

Understand:

- permitting agency jurisdictions, timeline issues
- State and Federal roles / help
- Funding opportunities.

- Further points for consideration

- Mass Audubon green bylaw tool as a resource
- Review planning with other local and regional entities, coastal towns, Cape Cod Commission,

Boston area

- Capture the energy of the moment, encourage more support through outreach and partnership with already active orgs, (ICAN, VCS, School Strikes, etc)
- Develop town gov't buy in, study hazard mitigation and MVP plans
- Think about "un-building" as a concept - Land Bank
- What concepts may come before voters at Town Meeting?

Next Steps:

- Set a weekly meeting to get started.
- Develop a Energy policy for DRI review - MVC
- Look at Master Plan for Adaptation - Liz Durkee
- Discuss actions for the SSA - jointly, discussion with Mark Hanover about SSA goals, etc.