

Edgartown Energy Committee
Minutes for Tuesday, October 24, 2019

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order 3:30 pm. A quorum of 3 of 4 members was present.

ROLL CALL

Alan Strahler (Chair), Carla Cooper, Katherine Monterosso. Absent: Bonni Widdoes
Members of the Public: Geoff Thors, Lucy Morrison, Juliet Mulinare

AGENDA ITEM DISCUSSION

- 1) Motion to approve the October 1, 2019 minutes, motion approved 3-0 with no discussion.
- 2) Discussion of adding new members to the Committee. Geoff Thors expressed interest in joining, while Juliet and Lucy were interested in supporting our efforts, but not becoming members at this time.
- 3) Alan distributed a handout titled “Possible Topic and Team Plan – Edgartown Energy Committee, October 24, 2019” that outlined the Committee’s path forward in the coming months.
- 4) Green Community Program: Edgartown will qualify for a \$144,000 grant after adoption of “Stretch Code” and other requirements needed for acceptance into the program. Grant Goals: 20% reduction in municipal energy use in 3 years. A commitment to convert municipal passenger vehicles to EV’s is required. Cape Light Compact is our regional energy savings group, RISE Engineering is their contractor who performs the baseline energy audit.
 - a) Carla & Kat will collect the baseline fossil fuel usage data for FY 2018 from the Town (Adam Darack, since Town accountant has left) and deliver to Margaret Song of CLC. *Projected completion by November 8, 2019.*
 - b) Alan, Carla & Kat will accompany RISE Engineering to town energy-consuming facilities for their audit.
 - c) Alan & Geoff will work on town warrant article for Stretch Code.
- 5) Town Solar Projects – The town will hire a consultant to assist with solar project planning. Alan and possible volunteer consultant Stephen Turner will assist town. .
 - a) Potential landfill site must be done as a lease to the developer. Warrant article will be necessary to authorize lease greater than 3 years.
 - b) Potential solar panel installation at the landfill site would not penetrate or compromise the landfill’s cap.
 - c) Solar projects could be exempt from bid process under the “Energy Exemption”
- 6) Charging Stations – Bonni prepared a handout summarizing the Eversource incentive program for municipalities.
 - a) Eversource pays 100% to supply & maintain electrical infrastructure to the chargers using VW settlement money. Town must purchase the chargers. One vendor, ChargePoint, could assist the town through the Eversource application process.
 - b) Charging station siting – the Committee is still evaluating prospective locations for chargers.

- i) James Hagerty feels that parking downtown is already at a premium and would prefer options that wouldn't usurp downtown spaces.
 - ii) Coastal storm surge and sea level rise should be considered when evaluating charging station sites.
 - iii) Most desirable sites remain the Park & Ride and the Library/School complex.
 - iv) Church Street Lot could potentially interfere with VTA charging equipment needed for inductive bus charging at the location.
- 7) MVP update – Alan & Lucy will join the MVP Steering Group (Woods Hole Group & Jane Varkonda) that will be meeting once a month until June 2020.
- i) Lucy will join the working group on an Island Adaptation plan within the MVC Climate Crisis Task Force.
- 8) Warrant Articles – EC members will be meeting with town officials and boards to promote warrant articles:
- i) Stretch Code
 - ii) Funding for Charging Stations and Electric Vehicles
 - iii) 100% Renewable Martha's Vineyard Community Resolution. Alan distributed an op-ed piece in the Martha's Vineyard Times supporting the resolution and copy of the proposed resolution.
- 9) Other Discussion
- i) Promote energy-related and climate actions on the island via periodic newspaper articles/interviews to build community support for future projects and warrant articles.
 - ii) Important to educate town boards and commissions on the 100% Renewable Community Resolution so they can be mindful of the goals when reviewing applications.
 - iii) Stay apprised of the GreenWorks legislation, passed by the state House and currently in the Senate.
- 10) Regular Meeting Time
- i) Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 is proposed for future meetings. Next meeting to be determined by email.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm
 Respectfully Submitted,
 Carla Cooper

Documents Distributed:

Possible Topic and Team Plan – Edgartown Energy Committee, October 24, 2019
 Report on Edgartown EV Charging Stations
 "Making Martha's Vineyard 100 percent renewable" MV Times, October 23, 2019
 Proposed warrant article on island-wide goals for reduction of fossil fuel use and fraction of renewable energy

Possible Topic and Team Plan
Edgartown Energy Committee
October 24, 2019

1. Green Community Program
 - a. Baseline – Carla, Kat
 - i. Work with Margaret Song, Cape Light Compact, to complete info needed.
 - ii. Meet with Town Accountant re: fossil fuel usage, FY 2018
 - iii. Get fossil fuel data for Margaret: Motor fuels, VTA; Off-road fuels, diesel, marine, Packer; propane, Vineyard Propane
 - b. Audit – Kat, Carla
 - i. Coordinate and accompany visits of Rise Engineering of energy consuming facilities and preparation of mitigation plans and possible savings over baseline
 - c. Stretch Code – Alan, Geoff
 - i. Meet with building department to get support for Stretch code town warrant article.
 - d. Coordinate with town (Administrator, Select Board) during above.
2. Town solar projects – Stephen, Alan
 - a. Assist in consultant selection as requested by town
 - b. Assist in follow-on actions as needed
3. Charging stations, EVs – Bonni, Carla
 - a. Present options and discuss with Town Administrator, Select Board
 - b. Facilitate purchase and planning as needed
 - c. Monitor EV subsidies and incentives as new funding appears from Commonwealth
4. Town Adaption and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Efforts – Lucy, Alan
 - a. Join Steering Group for MVP Planning grant with Woods Hole Group, Jane Varkonda, leader (<1 meeting/month to June 2020)
 - b. Join MVC Climate Change Task Force subgroup on Island Adaptation Plan, Liz Durkee, leader (2 meetings/month, 5 months)
5. Renewable Goals Warrant Article– Alan, Juliet, others
 - a. Meet with Town Adminstrator, Select Board on warrant article
 - b. Meet with town boards, commissions, and committees and/or reps as appropriate to promote article

Edgartown EV Charging Stations: Proposal

The incentive programs still available to a municipality are:

Eversource:

Eversource will provide 100% of the cost to supply and maintain the electrical infrastructure necessary to get electricity to the charger. This includes any excavation, improvements to the electric panel, and future maintenance.

I spoke at length to ChargePoint, the first on the list of vendors that Eversource recommends to take the town through the whole process of installing an EV Charger with the available incentives. They advise on site selection, the application process for the Eversource incentive program (which covers all the costs of the electrical connection) and manufactures and sells the hardware with the software programs necessary to operate it, and offers a 1 year warranty. Purchase of a longer warranty may be available after a local island electrician can be trained to do the work.

The person I spoke to at ChargePoint is Justin Ries. His phone is 904-613-9363. E-mail is justin.ries@chargepoint.com. He suggested that we make an e-mail introduction with James and anyone else who is important to this process. Chargepoint will help with the site selection, and once that is decided will come down to see the sites. They will help do the Eversource application. He said to work quickly, as Eversource has a lead time of 6 months out, and money will eventually be used up.

Eversource said that the cost of installation can be as much as \$20,000, and Chargepoint said that the cost of a (dual) charger is about \$8,000-\$10,000. A subscription program is also available which costs \$1200 per plug per year.

Justin said that the town could apply for the MA DEP incentive, but that so far the funds are not reliably being successfully obtained, so don't depend on that program. The person to talk to about the DEP program is Sejal Shah, at 617-556-1015. E-mail: MassEVIP.MassDEP@mas.gov.

Making Martha's Vineyard 100 percent renewable

October 23, 2019

Each year, Martha's Vineyard uses the equivalent of the entire output of an average-size nuclear power plant operating for a month and a half, according to a recent study done for the Martha's Vineyard Commission. That study also shows we emit some 270,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide. While these are actually tiny numbers on the global scale, we have both a moral responsibility to do what we can to lower our greenhouse gas emissions and a true opportunity to provide leadership to our region, our state, and our country.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of a key turning point in the existential drama of our changing climate. In 1979, the National Academy of Sciences held its first major review of the science of climate change after NASA and NOAA published alarming findings. The review was held at the academy's center in Woods Hole, only a few miles from our Island home. One finding: It might take several decades for the impacts of the extraordinary increase in emissions to become apparent, but by that time significant changes to the climate would be inevitable.

Four decades later, we are seeing on an almost daily basis the evidence of a changing climate that no doubt seemed far in the future when the academy's review was completed. Since then, much has changed, and unfortunately, much has stayed the same. While the science has become much clearer, corporate interests have continued to actively oppose efforts to migrate away from fossil-fuel-based energy. National and global leaders have so far failed to take the measures necessary to meet their own professed climate action commitments.

So what can be done to avert planetary catastrophe for this and future generations? It has become very clear that the necessary leadership at this

point in time must come from local actions and local activism.

Here on Martha's Vineyard, a surge of community concern has been prompted by the realization that, as an Island, we are on the front lines in confronting the realities of climate change. The environmental impacts here will be many and varied — including rising seas, an increase in the severity of coastal storms and storm surges, and changes in our ecosystems. Climate disruption will also have significant financial implications. A recent study projects that Barnstable County will need to spend some \$7 billion over the next two decades to address the issues of climate change — third highest in the nation. While Dukes County was not part of the study, the magnitude of Barnstable County's necessary outlay is sobering and instructive.

A number of Island organizations are now working in concert on the dual challenges posed by the changing climate — preparing for what is to come (adaptation), and limiting greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation). Our electric power cooperative, Vineyard Power, has worked tirelessly to make significant renewable energy generation from offshore wind a reality. A grassroots citizen's group, the Island Climate Action Network, has been invaluable in raising awareness of the challenges we face in adapting to the changing climate, and identifying concrete actions that Islanders can take to turn that awareness into a stronger and more resilient community.

The Martha's Vineyard Commission has established the MVC Climate Change Task Force, which is working to develop master plans for both regional climate change adaptation and a regional energy transformation. Coordination with town-level planning is key; these issues are both local and regional.

In 2016, a group of town energy committee members established an all-Island energy committee, which we dubbed the Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee (VSEC). This committee aims to ensure that best practices and important activities in each town are shared across our entire community.

An initial VSEC initiative was to get each of our six towns accepted as a

Massachusetts Green Community, and to participate in this grant program focused on energy efficiency for municipal buildings. By the end of 2019, Tisbury, West Tisbury, Aquinnah, and Chilmark will be Green Communities. Oak Bluffs and Edgartown are on track to achieve this status in 2020.

VSEC's next objective is to have our entire community adopt serious greenhouse gas reduction goals that are consistent with, but slightly more aggressive than, Massachusetts's statutory requirements. To do so, we are sponsoring a "100 Percent Renewable Martha's Vineyard" warrant article, which will come before the voters at all the upcoming annual town meetings.

The nonbinding goals in this article are simple: Migrate to 50 percent renewable electricity by 2030 (the state is already at 20-plus percent), and 100 percent renewable electricity by 2040, and to reduce our fossil-fuel carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2040. While these goals will not be easy to achieve, they are necessary (on a global basis) to avoid the most serious outcomes associated with global warming beyond 2oC. We need to do our part.

We live in interesting and challenging times — but our children and grandchildren will inherit what we do or fail to do. It is very tempting to ignore the climate crisis. After all, Martha's Vineyard is a very small part of the world, and national and global leadership has so far failed miserably in addressing the problem that the conference in Woods Hole in 1979 identified. We cannot wait for national leaders, nor is it appropriate to expect that future generations will do all the work. The time is now, and the key to tackling the global problem is local action. With all of us working together, Martha's Vineyard can do this!

Rob Hannemann is chair of the Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee (VSEC), and is a member of the MVC Climate Crisis Task Force. VSEC is made up of town energy committee leaders, and aims to ensure that best practices and important activities in each town are shared across our entire community. Rob was previously an engineering professor at Tufts University, and is a full-time Chilmark resident.

100% Renewable Martha's Vineyard Community Resolution

Article xx: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Island-wide goals in response to the developing climate change crisis:

- Reduce fossil fuel use on the Island (from a 2018 baseline):
 - 50% by 2030
 - 100% by 2040

- Increase the fraction of our electricity use that is renewable:
 - To 50% by 2030
 - To 100% by 2040

- Foster biosphere carbon capture through:
 - Adoption of regenerative agriculture and landscaping
 - Protection and expansion of wetlands
 - Preservation of woodland resources;

and further, to request that the Town Energy Committee annually monitor progress toward the achievement of these goals.