

Edgartown Energy Committee
Minutes for Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 5:00 pm via Zoom

Present: Alan Strahler (Chair), Carla Cooper, Jack Ensor, Kat Monterosso, Bonni Widdoes

1. The January 7, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously.
2. Energy Audits and Energy Conservation Measures to be Taken (Alan)
 - a. Zero-cost agreements for ECMS at the various town buildings went out on January 23. Responses still need to come in from some of them. Alan will check in with James for who has responded.
 - b. Water Department – Bill Chapman is looking for incentive on propane condensing upgrade of the existing gas heaters for their garage. Trying to get a revised agreement to him. Alan will find out what wastewater is doing.
 - c. Elementary school lighting and demand ventilation costs discussed with James. He suggests bringing these to the school board after town meeting. LED bulb replacement = \$100,000 - School budget would need to cover \$25,000. Demand Control Ventilation - sensors that detect CO2 levels would signal a control box that would only turn on the fans when levels reach a pre-determined level. This would save energy and cost over manual operation of the fans.
 - d. ATM tentative dates May 8th or May 22nd.
3. Green Community Status (Alan)
 - a. FY 2020 Baseline
 - i. Still waiting for motor fuels from VTA? MEI is empty for motor fuels from January 2019 to present. Alan will ask Margaret Song to get data from Angie, since she knows precisely what to ask for.
 - b. Draft of Energy Reduction Plan
 - i. Most of information filled in by Mona @ CLC using Mass Energy Insight database. Need to pull together the energy savings plan from the energy audits Identify projects years 1, 2, 3; goals for years 4 and 5 (p. 14). Also program management plan (p. 16, need to clarify some of the numbers -street lights & vehicle fuel - that don't make sense). Long term energy goals (p. 22). Also, some issues with 2020 compared to 2019 in table on p. 20.
 - ii. Need to start meeting with Margaret, Mona to move ahead on this.
4. Solar Energy Projects in Edgartown (Jack)
 - a. RFP went out last week to 3 qualified consultants for solar project. Projected target - 2022 ATM. James feels that not enough time before 2021 ATM to meet with affected neighbors. Alan concerned that incentives are decreasing over time. Vineyard Wind may have seed money for this project.
 - b. CVEC has new Director, Town may consider renewing its association with CVEC.
5. EV Chargers (Bonni, Alan)
 - a. Encouraging email sent to James from PUC program for \$15K from Level-2 grant program - would pay \$15,000 towards hardware for ChargePoint chargers - town still pays for software and maintenance.
 - b. Will go ahead with DC Fast Charger hardware grant application for 1 fast charger due March 19. (7 hours v. 1 hour for Chevy Volt on fast charger) \$50,000 limit per charger, town would still need to pay for software and maintenance.
 - c. Towns can charge users by kWh rate to re-coup cost of software & maintenance in addition to charging for electricity.
 - d. Eversource bringing in power for regular Level 2 chargers. Fast charger requires different transformer at higher voltage. We are now asking for both kinds of power from Eversource.

James was not happy with the size of the transformer box required by Eversource. Will be investigating ways to install transformers that won't be a visual problem for neighbors.

6. Edgartown Master Plan 2020-2030
 - a. Kat attended the first meeting which was a review of the process and looking for a consultant. Subgroups were established using categories of the prior Master Plan. Will ask about a group focused on climate/energy. Climate change will affect issues within each subgroup. Town needs to “keep in step” with what MVC is doing, and state climate bill goals.
7. Committee Facebook Page
 - a. Carla set up the new Energy Committee Facebook page, Alan has been added as an admin. Alan will craft language describing the Committee and circulate to members for review.
 - b. Town has no page for Energy Committee on website, Alan will speak with James about getting a page for visibility that we can then link to the FB page.
8. Town Climate Committee
 - a. No action yet. Awaiting guidance from MVC, Liz Durkee Climate Change Planner - Climate Committee would deal with adaptation, while Energy Committee would handle mitigation.
9. Report on Current Island Meetings and Other Activities Related to Energy Issues (Alan)
 - a. Climate Action Task Force
 - i. Jan 8 -- Focus on goals – Engage fed govt, develop governing structure for climate committees, liaise with SSA, Eversource; zoning, energy efficiency, audits; education; municipal buildings; etc.
 - ii. Feb 5 – Master plans for upgrading building, e.g., courthouse emergency. Met with Davis at SSA, he's willing to look at E-ferry issues, need money. Meeting with Keating to discuss federal infrastructure funding, SSA is big ask. Other infrastructure items. Summer event, possible pathways. CATF subcommittees, political outreach, education, fund raising, list to be developed. Weekly posts on MVC Facebook page, MV commission
 - iii. Dylan Fernandes working on bill on electrifying ferries in MA. SSA was dismissive at first but might be coming around as the state readies to pass climate bill. Charging infrastructure would need to be installed at the docks to accommodate electric ferries.
 - b. Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee
 - i. 2021 Possible Goals: 5-year plans for town energy committees; model bylaw changes for energy efficiency and renewables, preferences, not mandates
 - ii. Town by town updates – Chilmark school, HVAC, solar, vehicle chargers; OB Green Community, stretch code and as-of-right siting articles; Tisbury net zero target for new elementary school.
 - c. Church Street Chargers - TOP Priority at ATM
 - i. Group working on promoting report, hard copies, Facebook page, “Vote yes for electric buses in Edgartown” etc.
 - ii. Need more outreach as ATM approaches. Carla can create posters for frequently visited spots around town (coffee shops, Stop & Shop, Library, etc.)
10. Unanticipated Topics - Kat has been researching carbon intensive building. Looking at ways to be truly carbon neutral including “embedded carbon” materials. Kat will share resources.
11. Next Meeting: Set for March 18, 5:00 PM
12. Meeting Adjourned at 6:32 pm