

CLIMATE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON JULY 12, 2022

Julia Livingston, the chair of the committee, opened the meeting at 4:04 PM.

The following members of the committee were present on zoom, as follows:

Jennifer Blum
Peter Kirn
Julia Livingston
Kevin Loughlin
Cari Williamson

In addition, Alan Strahler and Alan Feldman were present on zoom as invited guests.

The first order of business was a report from Peter and Jennifer about their success in placing the 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 card with various Edgartown based real estate rental agents for use in their welcome packets for renters. Peter said the printer's invoice was given to James Hagerty before June 30, and James was happy about that. Cards were also placed at the town hall, the visitor center, and various hotels. Jennifer said some people had asked for a pdf version, and Julia said she would send it. Peter advocated for checking back to see whether more cards are needed anywhere.

Jennifer undertook to contact the climate committee leaders in other towns to make sure they are receptive to our distribution of the cards to rental agencies in their towns. Peter said he has about half of the cards left. He also said that he and his wife made a list of all the rental agencies in each of the six towns.

There was some discussion of possibly getting the card into some of the seasonal magazines. Jennifer said she could contact the people who put together the Blue Dot magazine. The suggestion was made that cards could be put at Cronig's and/or Stop & Shop and/or other stores.

There was general agreement that it would be good to get the rest of the cards out soon.

At this point, Peter left the meeting due to a conflicting commitment.

The next order of business was public comment, but no members of the public were present other than the invited guests.

The next order of business was a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7 meeting, which had previously been emailed to all committee members. There was a motion duly seconded, no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Next there was a discussion of the four reports of meetings with leaders of Town departments that had previously been emailed to all committee members. It was generally agreed that the meetings were well received and useful in encouraging Town leaders think more broadly about the intersections between climate change and their areas of responsibility. Some of the reports had "TBD" as the story to get out to the community. It was generally agreed that follow up meetings in the early Fall would be a good idea, with a possible report to the Select Board later in the Fall.

There was a discussion of the meeting with the leader of the Capital Programs Committee (James Hagerty) and the matrix that committee uses to score proposed capital projects. James has invited our committee to propose a revision to the scoring system to add climate change considerations. A draft of a proposed revision to the matrix had previously been emailed to all committee members. It was generally agreed that individual comments on the draft should be sent to Julia before the end of July and that she would forward a draft revision to James in early August so that it could be in place for the September start of the annual process.

The next order of business was discussion of the opportunity to make comments for the Martha's Vineyard Commission hearing on July 14, 2022 about the connectors for the Park City Wind project. The proposal is that these connectors would be buried between Chappaquiddick and Nantucket in a corridor already approved for the similar connectors for the Cape Wind project. Alan Strahler provided useful background information, making it clear that wind power from these projects is absolutely crucial to the effort of the Town to be 100% free of fossil fuels by 2040, as voted by the Town meeting in 2021. Because of the short notice of the July 14 meeting, it was agreed that Julia should write a comment letter, email it to all committee members for their comments, and send it to the Martha's Vineyard Commission in time for the July 14 meeting.

Alan Strahler encouraged all members of our committee to attend the zoom meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Commission on July 14.

Next Julia recommended tabling the discussion of the list of resources provided by Bruce Fowle and the bibliography provided by Kevin until our next meeting. Alan Strahler suggested that Kevin's bibliography should have links so that it will be easier for users to navigate when it is posted on our web page. Alan suggested that Adam Darack at the town hall could assist with this if Kevin needs help.

There was a short discussion of the current state of the Edgartown Master Plan and the Martha's Vineyard Commission Climate Action Plan, both of which are in process. Kevin said he thinks more information is needed by a lot of residents. He thinks a point - counterpoint column in one or both of the newspapers or a regular column delving into some of the interesting questions and science would help. For example, there might be a column exploring the question of whether to retreat from the existing working waterfront areas or to build seawalls and bulkheads to protect commercial areas that will be below sea level. Kevin undertook the task of contacting the new Editor of the Gazette as a first step to see whether appointing a climate editor might be a promising idea.

Julia proposed that the next meeting of our committee would be in September. Julia said that she would send all committee members a list of the things we had discussed that would move forward in the interim.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 5:17 PM.