

CLIMATE COMMITTEE
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON JUNE 7, 2022

Julia Livingston, the chair of the committee, opened the meeting at 4:09 PM.

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

Jennifer Blum
Josey Kirkland
Peter Kirn
Julia Livingston
Kevin Loughlin
Doris Ward
Cari Williamson

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

The first 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 May 10 meeting, which had previously been emailed to all committee members. There was a motion duly seconded, no discussion, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Julia described the current status and timing of the 8 1/2 x 5 1/2 card. Peter asked what the differences are between the two versions of the card that were emailed to all committee members. Julia explained that there are some formatting differences and that one version says "without keeping the water running" while doing dishes, shaving, and brushing your teeth, while the other just says running the water. Committee members generally agreed that the former was preferable. Josey asked for a change in the wording about balloons, and it was agreed that they should be avoided, instead of just being disposed of carefully. Cari asked that the reference to plastic bottles be changed to "single use plastics." Julia reported that, at the request of Doris, the word island would be capitalized throughout. With these changes, there was a motion to approve the card. The motion was seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Julia said that she would arrange to have 1,000 copies printed by daRosa Corporation in Oak Bluffs. She asked for volunteers to spread the cards around, especially with real estate rental brokers for insertion into the welcome packets for summer visitors. Peter, Cari, Kevin, and Josey volunteered. Josey asked whether the cards need to stay in Edgartown. Julia, Kevin, and Alan Strahler all felt there was no need to keep them exclusive to Edgartown.

The next order of business was our need for a mission statement to be the lead item on our page on the Town website. Doris had drafted a mission statement based on suggestions made by committee members, and the draft had been emailed to all committee members prior to the meeting. Josey asked whether the word "our" could be taken out of the phrase "remain committed to our being organic and ongoing..." Doris agreed to this request. With this change, there was a motion to approve the mission statement. The motion was seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Next we discussed what, in addition to the mission statement, might go on our web page. It was generally agreed that the committee as a whole would decide from time to time what should be added to the web page. Julia said that the logo approved at our previous meeting

would go on the page and that the minutes of our meetings would probably be posted there by Kristi Rose at the Town Hall. The suggestion was made that additional actions the Town is undertaking should be posted there. The suggestion was made that we might summarize the interviews done with Town department leaders, or possibly just their responses to the question "What would you like the public to know?" We intend to post the bibliography that Kevin is working on. In addition, we might post other useful links. Bruce Fowle mentioned that there is a Chappy booklet with a list of resources we might want to post.

Next there was a summary by Josey and Jennifer of some of the activities of the MVC Climate Action Week and the subsequent 4th Annual Youth Climate Summit.

Kevin suggested that committee members should consider attending the League of Women Voters session on July 11 titled The State of Our Island Coast. He also suggested a webinar to be hosted by Climate Reality on July 14 titled The Problem with Plastic. In addition he reminded us that there will be Edgartown Masterplan sessions on June 15, 16, 17 and 22.

Cari mentioned a brochure from the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Falmouth. She has a copy for each of us and will send an email address so we can sign up for their materials.

Jennifer mentioned that Woodwell is working with the MVC on a study of carbon sequestration on Martha's Vineyard.

Cari reported that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has proposed a rule on climate change disclosure by public companies.

Josey reported that she thinks she has done what she can to contact the Chappaquiddick Wampanoag Tribe for now, and she may try again in the Fall.

Bruce and Alan Feldman reported that the proceeds of last year's Chappaquiddick point to point race went to the Tribe. This year the proceeds will go toward the cost of solar panels and a back up battery for the Chappaquiddick Community Center so that it can function as an emergency shelter when needed.

Kevin asked whether there is data about the spread of solar panels on Martha's Vineyard. Alan Strahler replied that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has that data. He also reported that the Town's lease of the surface area of the closed Edgartown landfill to Ameresco for a solar array is in process. He said the legal structure is somewhat similar to the legal structure for Vineyard Wind in that the power that is generated will go into the grid and will not directly benefit the Island. Alan said that solar panels on residential roofs are a good thing to do. Cari asked about a new solar array being installed on Chase Road. Alan said he would drive by and would try to find out who is doing it.

Julia said that she would try to schedule the next meeting for mid-July.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 5:07 PM.