

EDGARTOWN CLIMATE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2023

Julia Livingston, the chair of the committee, opened the meeting at 4:02 PM.

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

Jennifer Blum
Kevin Loughlin
Josey Kirkland
Peter Kirn
Julia Livingston

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

The first order of business was a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15 meeting, which had previously been emailed to all committee members. There was a motion duly seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Next was a discussion of possible additional conversations with Town department and committee leaders. Peter pointed out that the September 29 Edgartown Harbor Plan meeting will include many Town department leaders and should be a good opportunity for some dialog. Peter and Julia will attend. Julia encouraged Bruce and Alan to attend. Ellen will attend to represent the Energy Committee. Julia encouraged Ellen to speak in favor of electrification of the Chappy Ferry being included in the Harbor Plan.

There was some discussion of Alan Strahler's upcoming move to Boston. There was general agreement that he is so knowledgeable and has such high credibility that he will be leaving a very big hole. Julia said she intends to continue to rely on him. Ellen said Alan has made it clear that he is not giving up on the Energy Committee, but he will no longer be a member. She has no sense yet of who the new leader of the Energy Committee will be.

Julia brought up the Community Preservation Committee as one that we should talk to because it seems to have some role in the redevelopment of the Robinson Road Recreation Area in connection with the Boys and Girls Club move. This seems like an opportunity for a rain garden/bioswale and some permeable pavement. Jennifer and Kevin said they would try to schedule a meeting with the leaders of the Committee.

Next was a discussion of possible new members for this Committee. Josey offered that the Protect Your Environment Club at the High School is getting started for the new school year with new members who may have parents who are residents of Edgartown. The Climate Cafés may be a good place to try to identify possible new members. Bruce and Alan said they will try to identify new members from Chappaquiddick.

Ellen said the Energy Committee also needs new members, especially members with relevant technical knowledge.

The next order of business was an update on our card. Peter said he would talk to the owner of Edgartown Books about our 2024 card. Jennifer said we should be sure to share the 2024 card with Liz Durkee and the climate committee leaders in the other Martha's Vineyard towns.

Next, Julia reported that the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee set up by the Planning Board is now up and running. The committee is putting together lists of possible zoning changes for

affordable/workforce/community housing, outdoor activities, business property changes, and technical fixes to add to the existing climate change list. Jennifer asked whether anything has changed on the climate list. Julia said the only change is the addition of a possible prohibition on changes to the topography of land. Bruce asked whether an effort will be made to prioritize the possibilities. Julia said the next meeting of the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee will include interviews with two lawyers, and the following meeting would begin the prioritizing process. Jennifer asked about the two lawyers, and Julia gave a short description of each.

Next, Kevin reported that a letter has now been sent to Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes. At this point, there hasn't been any response. Alan and Peter expressed their distress that maintenance in the State Forest has been so neglected. There was some discussion of whether or how we should try to get the Town Administrator and the Select Board to pay attention to this issue. Kevin and Jennifer will reach out to the Fire Chief again.

Alan reported that the grant for the solar panels and battery storage for the Chappy emergency shelter is still in process, but moving slowly. He said the neighborhood captains and communication plan were ready in case Hurricane Lee turned out to be serious. Fire Chief Schaeffer has provided radios for the Chappy neighborhood captains in case cell phones don't work in a storm.

Bruce said he doesn't think there have been any meetings about the Chappy Ferry since the last meeting of this Committee.

Kevin said that during the recent heavy rain, he went to the Martha's Vineyard Hospital, and the access roads were passable, but would have been impassable for some vehicles with another couple of hours of rain.

Peter reported that, for the Edgartown Harbor Plan, in addition to the September 29 meeting discussed at the beginning of this meeting, there is also a zoom meeting about Eel Pond on September 27 at 3:30.

Alan said there is a zoom meeting of the Conservation Commission to discuss Cape Pogue and Wasque and the Trustees (formerly The Trustees of Reservations or TTOR) at 4:00 on September 27.

Julia reported that the Edgartown Master Plan chapters are close to final, and the Steering Committee is now collecting all the action items from the separate chapters to repeat them all in a final chapter.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 4:54 PM.