

EDGARTOWN CLIMATE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 15, 2023

Julia Livingston, the chair of the committee, opened the meeting at 4:01 PM.

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

Jennifer Blum
Kevin Loughlin
Peter Kirn
Julia Livingston

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

The first order of business was a motion to approve the minutes of the July 18 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 Cari Williamson's resignation from the Committee. She will continue as an adjunct member or independent volunteer to help distribute cards and to continue conversations with Edgartown Books and the Edgartown School. Julia said she would get the process started to advertise for two new members, and she asked everyone to think about whether they know anyone who might like to join us, especially someone from Chappaquiddick.

The next order of business was an update on the conversations with the leaders of Town Departments. These conversations have been paused over the past couple of weeks and will start up again in September.

The next order of business was the status of our 2023 card. Peter gave the pdf of the card to Point B Realty. He also said Sandpiper took 100 cards for their August renters. He visited hotels as well as rental agencies. He will talk to the owner of Edgartown Books in the fall about a bookmark sized card for 2024.

Next, Julia reported that the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee being set up by the Planning Board has now advertised for members. The advertisement says the new committee is expected to make recommendations to the Planning Board by December 15, and the appointment of members to the new committee may be on the Planning Board agenda for later this evening. Julia will tune into tonight's Planning Board meeting and other Climate Committee members may do the same.

Next, Kevin reported that the fires in Canada and on Maui should add to the urgency of our request for machinery and personnel for the State Forest. We can't control the weather, but we can improve preparedness. The story of the Maui fires seems to be a story of governmental dysfunction, and we don't want a similar story here. Committee members generally agreed that Kevin should draft a new letter to Julian Cyr and Dylan Fernandes telling them that our next step is to contact the Boston Globe and the two local newspapers. Alan Feldman mentioned that there is a governmental drought website that provides information based on the address provided by the website user.

Alan Feldman reported that the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) is very excited about the project to make the Chappaquiddick Community Center an emergency

shelter, but there is a lot of administrative detail slowing the project down. He said the Town and, in particular, Chief Schaeffer have been very supportive.

Alan reported that the base line tick study was completed on Chappaquiddick in the spring, and a baseline deer study will be done soon. These are the two studies that will form the basis for an experimental tick management program. Alan said the tick situation on Chappaquiddick has been quite bad this year. He said there is a project underway to provide signs about ticks on walking trails on Chappaquiddick.

Alan also reported that it seems likely the next generation of boats for the Chappy Ferry will not be electric. This seems very unfortunate as substantial money will be spent to rebuild the ferry ramps and docks on both sides without taking into account the need for boats powered by electricity.

Alan said there is a lot of concern about mismanagement of the environmentally very sensitive Cape Pogue area near the lighthouse. He added that the volume of boat traffic and partying in Cape Pogue Pond represents another area of mismanagement. The Harbormaster needs more manpower for enforcement.

Peter reported that he has not heard anything about the Harbor Management Plan since our last meeting.

Julia reported that the Edgartown Master Plan seems to be moving along. She suggested that the Master Plan should recommend an increased budget for enforcement by the Harbormaster in addition to enforcement by the Building Inspector and others. Alan Strahler said he is working on the energy section of the Master Plan.

Ben Robinson emailed Alan Strahler and said we should not expect to hear anything about the Woodwell study until October.

The next topic was the request from the Edgartown Finance Committee for the Climate Committee to review of Town fees to see whether some of them should be increased because the activity being permitted carries climate implications. Committee members generally agreed that we should just let this lie for now.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 4:50 PM.