

## EDGARTOWN CLIMATE COMMITTEE

### MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON JUNE 21, 2023

Julia Livingston, the chair of the committee, opened the meeting at 4:03 PM.

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

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

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

Julia opened the meeting by thanking Ellen Price and her husband, Richard Price, for hosting the May 30 in person pot luck dinner for the Edgartown Climate and Energy Committees together with spouses and significant others.

Julia also noted that Jack Walsh has graduated from the Regional High School and has been awarded a full scholarship to Rutgers University. Congratulations to Jack and a big thank you for his participation with our committee and with the Protect Your Environment Club at the high school.

The first order of business was a motion to approve the minutes of the May 23 meeting, which had previously been emailed to all committee members. There was a motion duly seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

The next order of business was an update on the conversations with the leaders of Town Departments.

Jennifer said this should be a good time to contact the new Health Agent, Connor Downing. She and Kevin will try to get that meeting scheduled soon. They will bring up the actions in the MVC CAP that are relevant, along with our concerns about septic systems and the need to be sure Edgartown gets a fair share of the Dukes County money available for nitrogen removal upgrades to septic systems.

Julia and Cari's report of their meeting with Don Hatch at the Refuse District is finished and was sent out to all committee members. Don hopes to move forward with the reorientation of the Transfer Station this year, and he said he would look into using climate friendly road surfacing materials.

Josey said she would get a meeting scheduled soon so that she and Peter could talk to the Director of the library. This meeting will probably focus on encouraging more climate oriented programming at the library.

The next order of business was the status of our 2023 card. Peter now has the printed cards, and James Hagerty has the invoice. Peter has started the process of getting the cards into the hands of the rental agents and hotels. He put some on the reception desk at the Town Hall. He's also given some cards to Alan Feldman for use on Chappaquiddick. Josey will take some for Felix Neck. Cari will take some for stores and businesses and the antique shows at the Grange Hall. Peter will put some at the Church Street visitor center.

Next, Julia reported that she's been listening in to the Planning Board meetings in the hope of encouraging them to move forward with hiring an expert to work on reviewing and proposing updates to the zoning bylaws. At a recent meeting they agreed to put the formation of a steering committee for this project on the agenda for their July 11 meeting. Julia will attend that meeting, and it might be helpful if other Climate Committee members could also attend.

Next, Kevin reported on his efforts to follow up on the maintenance needed in the State Forest. He will continue trying to schedule a meeting for himself and Jennifer with Chief Schaeffer to discuss controlled burns and other subjects.

Bruce reported that he believes the creation of a tax exempt corporation to operate the Chappy Ferry is moving along. He also believes the UMass tick study and the CERT at the Chappy Community Center are moving along.

Peter reported that there has been no progress on the Harbor Management Plan, and he will contact Juliet Mulinare again to try to get it moving. Julia reported that there has been no progress on the Edgartown Master Plan, and she will contact Juliet Mulinare again to try to get it moving. Alan Strahler reported that he has not heard anything about the Woodwell study.

Next, Julia reported that she, Kevin, Jennifer, and Cari attended a June 10 CAP workshop led by Liz Durkee. Cari said the other towns seemed very interested in what the Edgartown Climate Committee is doing. Jennifer reported that all the towns except Aquinnah were well represented, and there was discussion about updating wetland and floodplain bylaws, adding bylaws about maximum disturbance, and meeting with town department leaders to try to move forward on the CAP actions where town departments are needed as partners. There was a lot of good sharing of ideas. Kevin recommended emailing Liz Durkee so we can get the next workshop scheduled and on our calendars. Cari mentioned that she learned at the workshop that there are several boxes of The Island Blue Pages booklet in the basement at the MVC. She is going to take some to the Edgartown School.

Kevin mentioned that Liz Durkee has a commitment from the MV Times to publish a regular climate column. Liz will write this column with our Emerita Climate Committee Member, Doris Ward. Kevin suggested that we should send emails to the MV Times thanking them for doing this.

Jennifer reported that the Vineyard Conservation Society had their annual meeting last night. The meeting was a celebration of the 38 year tenure of Brendan O'Neill as Executive Director on his retirement, and there was a really inspiring talk by Sam Look who will be the new Executive Director.

Julia brought up the issue of decarbonization of building materials and techniques. It's a huge topic that we should probably all pay more attention to. Ellen had attended a Sierra Club presentation on this subject. Alan explained that there is a "stretch" building code and a "specialized stretch" building code that various Massachusetts and Island towns have adopted or are considering. He said that the Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee (VSEC) typically takes the lead on updates to the building codes and will probably discuss the specialized stretch building code in the Fall. He suggested that a conversation with Reade Milne might be useful.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 4:59 PM.