

EDGARTOWN CLIMATE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Julia Livingston, the chair of the committee, opened the meeting at 4:05 PM.

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

Kevin Loughlin
Josey Kirkland
Peter Kirn
Julia Livingston

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

The first order of business was a motion to approve the minutes of the October 10 meeting, which had previously been emailed to all committee members. There was a motion duly seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Alan Strahler said that Richard Price would be acting as the Chair Pro Tem of the Edgartown Energy Committee, with Alan remaining active in the work of the committee.

Julia reported that the Edgartown Zoning Bylaw Review Committee has been discussing a list of possible zoning bylaw changes relating to housing and will turn to the climate list at the next meeting. Peter asked how many changes might be presented to the Planning Board. Julia said it's too soon to tell, but possibly there would be three bundles: one related to housing, one related to climate, and one consisting of technical corrections. She reported that the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee has interviewed three lawyers and selected one. She said it was possible that a vote of the Climate Committee might be required for the selection of the lawyer because the warrant article requesting the funds for the zoning bylaw review had been submitted by the Climate Committee. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, there was a unanimous vote to approve the hiring of Carolyn Murray of KP Law. Next, Julia said she thinks it's possible that the work of the Zoning Bylaw Review Committee might require a second year and additional funds. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, there was a unanimous vote to authorize Julia to submit a warrant article on behalf of the Climate Committee like the one submitted last year.

Alan Strahler mentioned that KP Law represents the Cape Light Compact. He said they attend every meeting, and they are great.

Next, Kevin reported that he has received no substantive response from our State legislators to the letter he sent asking for more active management of the State Forest. The letter was sent in September, and Kevin recently called their offices to follow up. There was general agreement that we should continue to follow up with Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes. Julia suggested that maybe we should try asking for an in person meeting with the DCR person who is in charge of the State Forest. We might ask him what he thinks should be done and offer to be his ally in getting it done. Kevin recommended waiting a couple of weeks.

Next, Kevin reported that he had attended the October 13 meeting of the MVC Climate Action Plan Community Coordinating Committee. He said there was a wide ranging discussion, but nothing very concrete.

Julia said she had received an email from Liz Durkee about an effort to try to get a "green fee" added to Steamship Authority fares with the proceeds to be used for climate projects. Julia

asked for a volunteer to serve on a new committee Liz is setting up to work on this. Josey said she would need more information. She said she would be reluctant to put this cost on the people as opposed to big corporations.

Alan Strahler mentioned that the topic of the MVC CAP CCC meeting for tomorrow morning is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Vulnerability Plan 2.0. Julia said she plans to attend. Alan said he understands that a town that participates in this program will have faster and better access to State grants for climate related projects.

Next was a Chappaquiddick update. Bruce said the engineers working on the Chappy Ferry planning have asked for more money so they can engage a naval architecture consultant. Bruce said he has suggested to the Chappy Ferry Steering Committee that they need to coordinate with the Harbor Management Plan and the Town Master Plan. Also, Bruce has heard that the Town has hired a consultant to make a recommendation about the best way for the Chappy Ferry to be owned going forward, so the non-profit organization that was being formed for this purpose is now on hold.

Alan Feldman said the new Chappaquiddick tick signs have been ordered. He also said the CERT is still moving along, but slowly. Josey asked who she should contact to get copies of the tick signs. Bruce suggested Adam Moore at Sheriff's Meadow and Alan Feldman.

Peter reported that he has not heard anything recently about the Harbor Management Plan. He will reach out to Liz Durkee.

Julia reported that she has not heard anything recently about the Edgartown Master Plan. She believes Juliet Mulinare is actively working with the Martha's Vineyard Commission to make an online questionnaire consisting of the draft goals and actions, but she is worried the Master Plan may not be on the warrant for the 2024 Town Meeting. Kevin asked whether the consulting firm is disengaged. Julia said the plan is to send the text to the consultants when it is substantially finished and ask them to make it look beautiful and put the finishing touches on it. Kevin asked whether projects were on hold waiting for the Master Plan. He mentioned the vulnerable location of the Anchors senior center as an example. Julia said she shared his sense of urgency, but did not think projects were on hold waiting for the Master Plan.

Bruce mentioned that NOAA has recently refined their projections about sea level rise downward somewhat. He recommended their website. Josey wondered whether recent moves toward green energy are having some effect.

Next Julia asked if there is any update on possible new Climate Committee members. Alan Feldman, Josey and Julia all said they are continuing to work on this.

As to our 2024 card, Peter reported that Edgartown Books doesn't need a bookmark size card, but they will put the larger card in with all purchases.

Julia mentioned an upcoming meeting of the Community Preservation Committee and said she would like us to engage with them to encourage them to look at the Robinson Road Recreation Area reconstruction project through a climate lens, possibly including permeable pavement, a demonstration rain garden, and more large trees than might otherwise be the case.

There was a unanimous vote to adjourn at 4:55 PM.