

CLIMATE COMMITTEE  
TOWN OF EDGARTOWN

MINUTES OF ZOOM MEETING HELD ON APRIL 26, 2023

Julia Livingston, the chair of the committee, opened the meeting at 4:04 PM.

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

Jennifer Blum  
Josey Kirkland  
Peter Kirn  
Julia Livingston  
Cari Williamson

In addition, Alan Strahler, Bruce Fowle, Alan Feldman, Jack Walsh, and Ellen Price 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.

Next was a motion to approve the minutes of the March 21 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 a report of highlights of the May 11 Town Meeting, including Alan Strahler's Energy Committee report, the ban on "nip" bottles, and the approval of \$75,000 to fund a comprehensive review and update of the Town zoning bylaws to include identifying possible changes to assist in adaptation toward anticipated climate change. Julia reported that a proposed regulation of outdoor lighting was not approved, partly because Ron Rappaport spoke up and said he felt that the proposed standard of lighting that is "offensive to other residents" was too vague. Josey and Bruce pointed out that outdoor lighting is a problem for birds. Cari said the Historic District Commission regulates outdoor lighting in the Historic District and suggested that it might be appropriate to extend this to the rest of the Town.

Next was a discussion of the ongoing Town department interviews. Jennifer and Josey will talk to the leaders of the Planning Board. Josey and Peter will talk to the Harbormaster and the head Librarian. Jennifer will talk to the new Board of Health Agent.

Next, it was generally agreed that all Committee members would get their comments on the text for our 2023 card to Julia by May 11. Josey suggested adding some language about using less stuff, maybe something like, "Refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle." Julia undertook to consolidate the comments and send the resulting version out to all Committee members so that the card can go to the printer by the middle of May. Peter and his wife and Cari will distribute the cards as they did last year, and a pdf version will be available for rental agents who use electronic welcome packages. Alan Feldman said he would put some cards at the Chappy Community Center and the bulletin board next to the Chappy ferry landing.

The next agenda item was an update on the letter to our State Representative and State Senator about cleaning up the forest fire fuel lying around in the State Forest. Julia reported that both have responded to the letter, and she will follow up to get them the name and contact information for the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) person who is in charge of the State Forest.

Next, Alan Feldman reported that Chappy is likely to be the site of a new study, headed up by a biology professor from the University of Massachusetts, to see whether a chemical fed to deer in corn will kill ticks. The first phase will be to make a count of the deer and mice on Chappy and may get underway this Summer.

Bruce reported that the Massachusetts Attorney General has approved the idea of a new non-profit organization to operate the Chappy Ferry, and there's already an informally organized board of directors. Bruce and Alan both feel that there is enthusiasm on Chappy for the possibility of electric boats. Several Committee members remarked that the March 31 electric ferry program at the Film Center, organized by Kate Warner of the Martha's Vineyard Commission, was really encouraging. Julia suggested traveling to Casco Bay in Maine and going for a ride on one of their electric ferries. Alan Strahler said Kate Warner has put together a petition asking the Steamship Authority to start planning for electric boats, and we should be on the lookout for it.

There will be a Climate Action Fair on May 7 from 12:00 to 4:00 at the Ag Hall. Ellen will be representing both the Energy Committee and the Climate Committee, and she would very much like others to visit her table.

There were no updates on the Harbor Management Plan, the Edgartown Master Plan, or the Woodwell Study. There was no report on the April 14 meeting of the MVC CAP Community Coordinating Committee.

Alan Feldman asked about a newspaper article he had seen reporting on litigation over the Edgartown Conservation Commission's denial of the permitting for additional wind farm electrical cables in the same corridor East of Chappy where other wind farm electrical cables have already been permitted and installed. He said he thought the Avangrid people had made a very impressive presentation. Alan Strahler said he believed this was a repeat of what happened in the case of the previous cables and would result in eventual approval at the State level as was the case for the previous cables.

Julia undertook to send around information about a May 19 Cape floodplain meeting with Shannon Hulst. Peter said he would be available to tune into this.

Alan Feldman suggested that we tune into the presentation tomorrow at 5:00 from the engineering firm that is in the process of considering what should be done to make the Chappy Ferry resilient to expected sea level rise.

Next was discussion of a possible social evening for all of us with the Energy Committee and spouses. Jennifer will send around a doodle poll. The party might be at Felix Neck or at Ellen's home. It will be a potluck starting at 5:00 and everyone will bring their own plates cutlery, drinking cups, etc.

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