Aquinnah Climate and Energy Committee

Meeting Notes

October 18, 2022, 10 am

Present by Zoom: Meghan Gombos, Bill Lake, Luke Lefeber, Jim Pickman

Begun: 10:00 am

1. **New Members.** We welcomed Kathy Newman and Luke Lefeber as new members of our committee. Their participation will be submitted to the Select Board for approval.
2. **Participation in 10-Town All-Electric Construction Pilot Program.** Aquinnah remains among the towns authorized to participate in the 10-town all-electric new construction pilot program under the state’s recent climate bill. It is unclear whether this authorization will include implementing Aquinnah’s companion bylaw to require wiring of new buildings for an electric vehicle charger. West Tisbury will withdraw from the program, as it is unable to meet the affordable-housing condition in the law. Other towns and cities, including Boston, Salem, and potentially Worcester, are applying for permission to adopt all-electric requirements. DOER has announced its intention to act deliberately in implementing this provision of the law.
3. **Possible Alliance with BlocPower to Retrofit Existing Buildings**. The committee discussed the proposal from BlocPower to team with the Town to retrofit existing homes to be all-electric. Committee members have a number of questions, which will be explored with BlocPower in a follow-up call, set for Monday, October 24, at 4 pm.
4. **Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) Technical Assistance Project.** The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) held a technical meeting on October 10 at 4 pm with representatives of Aquinnah and Chilmark. The meeting focused on creation of microgrids. Meghan Gombos and Bill Lake participated, as did representatives of the Tribe and of Vineyard Power. The slides used in the meeting are attached, and a recording of the meeting is at this link: https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Ffile%2Fd%2F1bzNlMbL5-wMUuR8klQ3VRt9YU8ixqmfo%2Fview%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C01%7CLaura.Beshilas%40nrel.gov%7C1fb3de5538644a29f02508daabb7976b%7Ca0f29d7e28cd4f5484427885aee7c080%7C0%7C0%7C638011102288266518%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=nyLL4KL1Enz%2FCnxZPPU0t7uPvNtdQuJcOj6KdiWL65Q%3D&reserved=0
5. **New Stretch Code and Specialized Opt-In Stretch Code.** DOER has issued final language for a revised Stretch Code and a Specialized Municipal Opt-In Stretch Code. The revised Stretch Code will take effect automatically in mid-2024 in towns that have adopted the Stretch Code, as Aquinnah has. The Specialized Code, which is intended to require new buildings to have zero carbon emissions, will be available for towns to opt into. We will want to consider proposing that Aquinnah opt into it, after we see whether the new Administration wants to change it. Our no-fossil-fuel requirement for new construction may take the Town much of the way toward net-zero buildings.
6. **Landfill Solar Array.** The committee discussed a proposal for possible town ownership of the solar array at the capped landfill that may shortly be presented to the Select Board.
7. **Vineyard Power Application to Be CLC’s Community First Partner.** Vineyard Power is applying to Cape Light Compact to be its Community First Partner for the island. In that role, VP would work to encourage island residents and businesses to take advantage of the MassSave incentives to weatherize and electrify their buildings. Aquinnah has submitted a letter in support of VP’s application and will want to work with it if it is awarded this role.
8. **Committee Responsibilities Under the MVC Climate Action Plan.** Liz Durkee of the Martha’s Vineyard Commission has circulated to the town energy and climate committees the lists of action items for which the committees are the designated leads under the plan. We will want to reviews those lists at our next meeting for an initial discussion of how to carry out our responsibilities.

1. **New Meeting Time.** Based on a poll of members, the committee decided that future committee meetings will be on the first Monday of each month, at 4 pm.

Attachment: NREL slides re microgrids

Adjourned: 11:12 am

Submitted by Bill Lake