Aquinnah Climate and Energy Committee

Meeting Notes

June 14, 2022, 10 am

Begun: 10:00 am

Present: Meghan Gombos, Bill Lake, Jim Pickman

1. **Action on Bylaw Proposals and Home Rule Petition.** At the Town meeting on May 10, the Town adopted our two bylaw proposals:
   1. **All-electric new construction.** A revision to the general bylaws to require that all new or substantially remodeled construction use electricity rather than fossil fuels for heating, cooling, and hot water.

* 1. **Wiring for EV charger**. A revision to the general bylaws to require that all new or substantially remodeled construction provide for a 240-volt outlet, appropriately located, to accommodate an EV charger.

The Town authorized the filing of a home rule petition seeking the legislature’s permission to implement the new bylaws. Our petition and West Tisbury’s have been filed with Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes. Cyr’s office has taken the lead in submitting them to the legislature.

Coordinating through VSEC, the other four towns will consider adopting similar measures at the next round of town meetings. Reportedly, the relevant committee of the legislature has reported out a bill that would allow ten towns to implement all-electric new construction requirements. While it is not clear why the number would be limited to ten, ours are the 8th and 9th to be filed, so we can hope to be included.

1. **Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) Application.** We just got word that our joint application with Chilmark to the Department of Energy has been granted, for technical assistance in preparing a detailed tactical plan to achieve our 100% renewable energy goal by 2040. ETIPP is a program to provide technical assistance to “remote, island, and islanded communities to transform their energy systems and increase energy resilience.” An initial workshop for the successful applicants (only 12 nationwide) will be held by Zoom on July 19. The federal agency will partner with a nonprofit, The Island Institute, in providing the assistance to our two towns.Representatives of the Institute may visit the island in the next few weeks.
2. **Landfill Solar Array.** The solar array at the capped landfill is approaching its tenth anniversary. This presents an opportunity for the Town under the governing agreements. We will discuss this opportunity at a Finance Committee meeting this afternoon.
3. **Projects for Vineyard Power Development Fund (VPDF).** Vineyard Power has established a section 501(c)(3) charity to handle funds to be received from Vineyard Wind under the Community Benefits Agreement between them. The initial funds will go into a Resiliency and Affordability Program (RAP). Jim Pickman, Aquinnah’s representative on the advisory committee to VPDF, joined the meeting to discuss possible projects that Aquinnah might submit for inclusion in the program. The advisory committee has not met in the last few months.
4. **MVC Climate Action Plan.** A final workshop on the MVC’s Climate Action Plan was held on June 9 at the Aquinnah Town Hall. The plan leaders will complete work on the plan over the next few weeks. The plan is intended to be a living document that will be updated on the web as implementation proceeds.
5. **CERT.**The CERT will meet bi-monthly over the summer, or as needed in an emergency. The next meeting is scheduled for July 7, at 5:30 pm.

1. **Vision Fellowships.** Two fellowships have been awarded for energy work on the island. One will support an energy planner at the Martha’s Vineyard Commission, to work on actions of island-wide scope such as dealing with the Steamship Authority and Eversource. The other will support an energy transition coordinator at Vineyard Power, to help island residents and businesses to identify and take actions to move toward our goal of eliminating the use of fossil fuels by 2040.

Adjourned 10:37 am

Submitted by Bill Lake