Aquinnah Climate and Energy Committee

Meeting Notes

February 8, 2022

Begun 10 am

Present by Zoom: Forrest Filler, Meghan Gombos, Bill Lake

Non-Committee: Eunki Seonwoo, Jim Pickman

1. **Landfill Solar Array.** Members of the committee will meet with members of the Town’s Finance Committee to discuss the opportunity to purchase the solar array at the capped landfill after it reaches its tenth anniversary late this year.

1. **Projects for Vineyard Power Development Fund (VPDF).** The committee discussed the Town’s opportunity to propose projects for inclusion in the Resiliency and Affordability Program (RAP) that will be funded by Vineyard Power Development Fund. Jim Pickman is the Town’s member of the advisory committee to VPDF. He reported on the advisory committee’s first meeting. We had an initial discussion of possible projects that Aquinnah might submit for inclusion in the program.
2. **Solar and Battery Projects at Town Buildings.** Bill Lake reported on the status of the solar and battery projects at the Town buildings that were contracted for as part of CVEC’s Round 5 procurement.
3. **Proposed Bylaw Revisions.** Bill Lake reported that the following articles are projected to be included in the warrant for the Town meeting on May 10:

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 include a 240-volt outlet, appropriately located, to accommodate an EV charger.
2. **Authorization to file home rule petition.** Authorization for the Select Board to file a home rule petition with the state legislature seeking authority to implement the two bylaw revisions.

West Tisbury is considering including similar articles in the warrant for its town meeting.

1. **Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) Grant.** The Department of Energy is funding a program to provide technical assistance to remote, island, and islanded communities to transform their energy systems and increase energy resilience. The program is implemented in our region by DOE’s partner, the Island Institute. The program will be described in a webinar on February 16, which Bill Lake will attend. Bill will report to Chilmark’s energy committee that Aquinnah is interested in joining a multi-town application.
2. **Energy Questionnaire.** We discussed the results of our energy questionnaire and what implications they may have for our work. West Tisbury has shared the analysis of its results, which are quite similar.
3. **Green Communities.**  The Town has submitted its annual report on the use of its designation grant under the Green Communities program. We will not have finished spending the designation grant before the deadline to apply for this round of action grants (February 11) but will be eligible to apply for an action grant in the following round.
4. **MVC Climate Action Plan.** Meghan Gombos reported on the work under way on the MVC’s Climate Action Plan. Kathy Newman is Aquinnah’s representative on the steering committee, and Forrest Filler and Bill Lake serve on the Energy Transformation working group.
5. **CERT.**The committee discussed lessons learned from the CERT’s experience in the recent storm. Forrest Filler also reported on the fire safety training session held on Saturday, November 13, at 10 am, at the Moshup Beach parking lot.
6. **Other business.**  BillLake reported that DOER held a webinar this morning to describe two proposals: (1) an update of the stretch energy code, which will apply in all towns that have adopted that code, as Aquinnah did in becoming a Green Community; (2) a « specialized opt-in net zero code » designed to produce structures that will be net zero in carbon emissionss once electricity from the grid comes from 100% renewable sources, as it is required to by 2050. Comments on both proposals are due on March 9. The specialized opt-in code is scheduled to be available for towns to opt into it by the end of the year.

Adjourned 11:24 am

Submitted by Bill Lake