Aquinnah Climate and Energy Committee

Meeting Notes

October 12, 2021, 10 am

Began: 10:05 am

Present: Meghan Gombos, Bill Lake, Molly Purves, Noli Taylor

1.          **Need Aquinnah Reps for MVC Climate Action Plan.**  MVC has asked each town to name a member of the Steering Group for its Climate Action Plan. Each town is also asked to name an individual to participate in each of six thematic working groups:

Energy transformation

Land use and natural resources

Economic resilience

Public health and safety

Food security

Infrastructure, transportation, and buildings

The Committee discussed possible representatives to the working groups and will contact individuals to determine whether they are willing to serve.

2. **Advisory Group Member for Vineyard Power Resilience and Affordability (RAP) Program.**  Vineyard Power will have an advisory committee to help it choose projects to support under its RAP program, funded by Vineyard Wind. VP would like each town to name a member of the advisory committee. Megan and I are disqualified because we serve on the boards of VP entities. We identified some individuals to invite.

3.          **META Grant Application.** We have applied on behalf of the Town to MA DOER for a Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant.   The purpose of the grant program is to facilitate the use of independent third parties to aid towns and other public entities in the study, negotiation, development, and/or management of clean energy projects.  We’re seeking a grant to engage a consultant to help us to make the best use of net metering credits as we install additional solar facilities at Town buildings.

4.           **Proposed Bylaw Revisions.** We decided to propose two revisions to the Town bylaws to promote energy transformation. We’ll brief the Select Board and the Planning Board about these:

(a) **All-electric new construction.** The bylaws could be revised to require that all new or substantially remodeled construction use electricity rather than fossil fuels for heating, cooling, and hot water.  This would require that the Town file a home rule petition with the state legislature, as some other towns and cities are doing.

(b) **Wiring for EV charger**. The bylaws could be revised to require that all new or substantially revised construction include a 240-volt outlet to accommodate an EV charger.

5.          **Energy Questionnaire.**We have put an Energy Questionnaire on the Town’s website, hoping that many Town residents will fill it out, to give us and other Town committees a picture of our energy use and prospects for meeting the 100% renewable goal by 2040.  We have 30+ responses so far. We have asked Jeffrey to send a reminder to the Town email list.

6.          **CERT.**We heard a report on the CERT meeting on October 7, 2021. Training sessions are planned for CERT members and then other volunteers.

Adjourned 11:20 am.

Submitted by Bill Lake