Aquinnah Climate and Energy Committee

Meeting Notes

July 12, 2022, 10 am

Present: Meghan Gombos, Bill Lake, Jim Pickman

Begun: 10:01 am

1. **Action on Bylaw Proposals and Home Rule Petition.** Bill Lake reported that Senator Cyr’s office has filed our home rule petition seeking permission to implement the two bylaw changes adopted at the Town meeting. Legislation is pending in a conference committee of the legislature to authorize 10 towns to implement all-electric new construction requirements. We have encouraged the other island towns to adopt similar measures, in the hope that 10 will just be a first tranche for the legislators.
2. **Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) Application.** As noted, the Department of Energy has been granted our joint petition with Chilmark for technical assistance in preparing a detailed tactical plan to achieve our 100% renewable energy goal by 2040. An initial workshop for the successful applicants (only 12 nationwide) will be held by Zoom on July 19, from 3 to 5 pm Eastern. Meghan Gombos and Bill Lake will participate for Aquinnah. The DOE is partnering with a nonprofit, The Island Institute, in providing the assistance to our two towns.Representatives of the Institute will visit the island on July 19 to get first-hand impressions of our two towns.
3. **Landfill Solar Array.** We have discussed with the Finance Committee the opportunity for the Town to take ownership of the solar array at the capped landfill. Bill Lake and Howard Goldstein will explore with the owner possible terms for a transaction.
4. **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.
5. **MVC Climate Action Plan.** The plan leaders will complete work on the plan over the next few weeks and post it by the end of July. The plan is intended to be a living document that will be updated on the web as implementation proceeds. It will include over 80 action items, for each of which a lead is designated. Our committee plans to analyze the items for which town energy committees are designated as leads.
6. **CERT.**The CERT met on July 7. The minutes of the meeting are available to anyone interested.

1. **Vision Fellowships.** Vineyard Power and the Martha’s Vineyard Commission have advertised to fill the two positions made possible by Martha’s Vineyard Vision Fellowships. Candidates for both positions are being interviewed. Once hired, the new staffers should make a significant contribution to energy transition on the island, and our committee will want to coordinate with them.
2. **ECCCI Meeting.** The annual meeting of the Energy Committees of Cape Cod and the Islands met by Zoom on July 7. Bill Lake attended for Aquinnah (and CVEC) and reported on recent developments.

Adjourned 10:26 am

Presented by Bill Lake