

## Minutes

### Martha's Vineyard Commission Climate Action Task Force (CATF)

Friday, February 7, 2020

at the Olde Stone Building, Oak Bluffs

Present: Cheryl Doble, Liz Durkee, Alex Elvin, Rob Hannemann, Tristan Israel, Bob Johnston, Joan Malkin, Kathy Newman, Erik Peckar, Ben Robinson, Alan Strahler, Richard Toole, Adam Turner, Kate Warner, Norman Willard

#### I. Update on VTA charging station in Edgartown

Alan Strahler gave an update on a meeting at the Edgartown Library that addressed concerns about a proposed VTA bus stop in the Edgartown Historic District. About 70–80 people attended the meeting. The bus stop would include an inductive charging station for VTA busses that keeps them powered throughout the day. The bus stop will also have a new design and involve various improvements to the roadway. Alan said concerns at the meeting focused on the proposed changes within the Historic District. Ben Robinson noted that the MVC will review the traffic issues associated with the project, that charging stations will be a recurring issue as they become more common, and that the VTA is likely far ahead of other Island groups in terms of adopting electric technology and infrastructure.

#### II. Discussion of CATF outreach

Members proposed the following objectives for their first round of stakeholder outreach regarding climate change adaptation and mitigation:

- Start the conversation; encourage people to participate
- Attract everyone to the issues and encourage them to take action
- Get people in various sectors thinking about the secondary effects of climate change (access to goods, etc.); get them thinking about implications and starting to plan
- Gauge where different groups are in their thinking
- Create sense of excitement within stakeholder groups
- Get people thinking ahead, engaging in conversation
- Gather input from stakeholders that we can respond to in turn
- Engage stakeholders and follow up on what we hear
- Have an initial meeting for input, then follow up (**need to develop follow-up strategy ahead of time**)
- Build awareness so we can dig in to more substantive questions later on
- We should start the process and learn along the way; every group will be different
- Start with the larger entities (big polluters and groups that are strongly affected)

- Demonstrate to stakeholders that they will experience impacts of climate change

Erik Peckar recommended **developing a Power Map** to help visualize stakeholders in terms of their support and influence. He said such a map could help conceptualize the best approach in terms of outreach. Rob Hannemann later suggested **another type of map showing which groups will be most impacted by climate change**, as another way to prioritize the outreach.

Noli Taylor reported on her recent efforts to meet with landscapers, which she noted are generally in competition with each other and do not have an association. Ben pointed out that some of the bigger landscapers are part of the Martha's Vineyard Builders Association, which he planned to meet with in the near future to discuss the MVC's DRI checklist, as well as issues related to adaptation and mitigation. Tristan added that most landscaping companies are small or medium-sized and many of their workers speak English as a second language. Noli said **one company has a Brazilian owner who is willing to talk with her** and could potentially open other doors in the landscaping community.

Members raised questions surrounding the process of meeting with stakeholders. Norman Willard suggested finding someone with experience in community outreach, who could help with planning and facilitation, **and agreed to provide some names and dates for a training session**. He listed what he saw as the three most important facets of outreach:

- 1) Determine how to deal with each group
- 2) Identify the leaders in each group
- 3) Develop a long-term process of engagement

He also emphasized the importance of **documenting the meetings**. Kate Warner and Liz Durkee argued that Norman's suggestion might be better suited to the public presentations that the MVP consultant will organize later in the spring, rather than the initial stakeholder meetings, which Liz said should take a softer approach.

Members agreed that **stakeholder outreach would begin with grocers, builders, schools and the hospital**. Ben noted that one sector may provide avenues into another, such as when the schools work with garages to maintain their buses. In terms of schools, **Rob agreed to speak with superintendent Matt D'Andrea** about the school's role as both a contributor to climate impacts and an enabler of change. But he argued it would be most effective to also meet with each of the six school committees. Tristan noted the specific nature of some climate change issues, such as when a school needs a new boiler and has to get approval at town meeting. He and others recommended talking with each school separately.

**Kate volunteered herself and Rob to help Noli reach out to schools; Liz proposed having the Adaptation Master Plan Committee approach the hospital; and Ben and Joan planned to work with the builders association.**

As for grocers, some concern focused on **Stop and Shop, and who to approach in the company.** Ben also raised the question of how to navigate that process, given the MVC's review of their expansion plans as DRIs. **Adam Turner suggested that the CATF meet with Stop and Shop before those reviews get underway.** Tristan argued that the adaptation and mitigation efforts were separate from the DRIs. **It was recommended that Tristan, and possibly Marc Rosenbaum, handle the outreach to grocers.**

### III. Other business

Kate announced the **upcoming listening sessions for the 100% Renewable warrant article,** which have been scheduled in all but Edgartown and Aquinnah. Rob argued for keeping the climate change discussion separate from other initiatives such as those related to straws and Styrofoam, so that advocates don't appear oversaturated in green causes. Noli announced an **upcoming listening session related to Aquinnah's participation in the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.**

Norman reported on a meeting he had with Katie Theoharides, secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, about funding for resiliency, including the purchase of electric vehicles. **He said Katie was willing to come talk on the Vineyard this summer.** Adam called her enthusiastic and supported the idea of inviting her to speak.

Ben and Rob gave an update on their efforts to collaborate with Eversource on long-term resiliency planning. **Eversource manager of strategic planning Steve Casey will meet with the CATF at its meeting on Feb. 21. Members agreed to put together some questions and goals for the meeting and send them to Eversource ahead of time.** Rob said the main objective was to partner with Eversource on certain technical items in order to develop a cleaner and more resilient electrical system. Ben suggested **inviting Island energy committees** to the meeting as well, and that **Rob should chair the meeting** to keep it organized.

Liz reported that the Climate Solutions series has gone well, and Kate suggested **a new series in the future,** focusing on the nuts and bolts of climate action and how to get started.

Alex went over the documents he had sent earlier, which included talking points for stakeholder meetings, an expanded stakeholder list, top-ten climate facts and how to respond to climate skeptics. He asked members to provide whatever feedback they had. He also agreed to begin working on a **master contact list for outreach activities.**

Tristan said candidates for SSA Vineyard Governor had paid lip service to climate issues during their interviews, but not much more. He said **interviews for the MVY Airport Commission would begin the following week, and he encouraged CATF members to attend.**