

## DRAFT Minutes

### MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, March 19, 2021

#### Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Kate Warner (KW), Tristan Israel (TI), Rob Hannemann (RH), Cheryl Doble (CD), Beckie Finn (BF), Kathy Newman (KN), Noli Taylor (NT), Joan Malkin (JM), Bob Johnston (BJ), Richard Toole (RT), Liz Durkee (LD), Alan Strahler (AS), Dan Doyle (DD)

#### I. County Update

LD: MVP Letter of Support was secured from the County; Commissioners asked she met with them at one of their DCC meetings, where she made the formal request.

A county-wide emergency manager / coordinator position is being discussed and may be funded on town floor during upcoming Spring meetings. County Commissioners floated MVC as a possible place where that individual might be housed. It is presently unclear if the hire would be for a manager's role or coordinator's position.

NT: What do the town Emergency Managers actually want? This would be especially valuable in carving out an position that would serve in a unifying capacity.

NT: Update on Aquinnah CERT: ideal ratio for trained CERT members to general public is 1:7 or 1:10. It's presently closer to 1:100. Aquinnah CERT is sponsoring trainings for shelter volunteers, CPR, and is looking for more participation. They currently have a n/hood captain model that will serve them well in the event of a wildfire.

BR: Post Disaster Response should be just a big a concern: if there's an event, does Eversource build back to same standards, or invest in a more resilient design? The same question applies to our municipalities and flooded homes.

LD: We need a post-disaster plan.

TI: Unlike the mainland where most communities exist within clearly defined County functions and administration, the Vineyard has the MVC – with a less vested County. This can be challenging in situations that are conventionally handled through county oversight.

LD recently met with a Sierra Club Climate group (volunteers mostly); out of Boston; MA chapter; it was comprised of many younger kids and a couple of paid staffers.

The MV Museum has a *One Island, Many Stories* program; some of the themes include Voyaging, Creating, Farming and others.

#### II. Updates on Committees

##### *Education*

Climate Week is planned for November.

Some plans for Climate Week include galleries and a children oriented fair. We want the community to be creative in how they are getting involved.

LD sent out an Invite to Obama requesting he consider speaking to children at this event to promote civic-mindedness; this event ties into the larger Community Engagement Plan; for planning and outreach purposes, we need more emails that are not generic email addresses.

NT is getting involved in working with teachers at WT school on a Climate Café on Arts & Activism; this was borne somewhat out of a conversation with Norman Willard who has done work with EPA on Climate Art; Kristy Strahler, wife of Alan, is on the Education C'tee and she loves working with students; she might be a good collaborator on this work.

### *Fundraising*

KN reported an upcoming meeting will take place on Monday.

Ben will circle back with Richard Andre about how to approach Mayflower to come speak with the community regarding a potential Community Based Agreement (CBA); Richard has served in a liaison role for the Vineyard Wind (VW) project for Vineyard Power (VP).

TI noted the other four turbine developments in the region will have some form of CBAs. We should pro-active.

RH: VW is the first wind farm; Park City Wind is one of the companies that has additional leaseholds and will be part of the CBA that will be signed soon by VP and VW; Mayflower is a different company altogether; Eversource has an ownership share with them. We need to be in ongoing dialogue with VP; whatever request we make it should be clear what we'll use it for.

BR will reach out to Richard to find out more.

### *Political Outreach*

DD: Ben, Liz, Adam and Dan will meet with Sen. Markey's Regional Director, Nolan O'Brien next Tuesday to discuss CATF's work, resiliency issues, infrastructure priorities along with upcoming legislation. DD will begin creating a master list document that includes: *Priority*, *Status*, and other data points alongside each of our key resiliency projects.

Menemsha Harbor and Resilient Fisheries are two priorities; has Chilmark moved forward on their harbor plan? This was also a priority communicated with Keating's office.

### **III. Energy Working Group Presentation by Rob Hannemann can be found [here](#)**

#### *Additional comments by RH*

The Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee's (VSEC) consensus was that a Roadmap would be of value to the island community; this presentation will then be taken across the towns through each of their Energy C'tees and then to the BOS as well as partner orgs (Dukes Cty and Cape Light Compact).

MA Legislature has passed Climate Bill without items Gov. Baker wanted and this passage is veto proof in both Chambers.

By 2033, MA Electrical Grid will be 100% renewable (needs to be confirmed).

Eversource has not invested in Smart Grid technologies, and microgrids cannot yet be installed on the island today because they do not permit this.

Eversource's projected growth rate for the Vineyard is unfounded and unrealistic given trends in the recent decades.

Cape Light Compact (CLC) is an important partner, partially attributed to their lobbying arm; CATF's Political Outreach C'tee needs to keep in mind the technical needs of the island when working with elected officials.

*Follow up remarks by attendees*

The presentation needs to be made to the public and it's a reminder that we need the legislature to promote regulatory changes impacting Eversource practices.

RH: Battery Storage is not moving fast enough; they are needed for robust micro grids; those installed today only afford a few hours of backup; batteries will be paramount to achieve community-wide connectivity on the heels of a disaster.

An Energy Future of our Island type of event with presentations by both Eversource and VSEC could be possibly tied into Climate Week.

KW noted Climate Week is intended to be less academic (ie. runaway lectures) and more engaging (ie. free rides on an all electric boat for attendees, etc.)

#### **IV. Storm Tide Pathways Updates**

LD noted that we still need matching funds; BR added this match might happen on town floor.

#### **V. SSA Electrification update**

SSA has announced they will undertake a feasibility study to electrify their fleet of vessels.

They have concerns about being a forerunner on this form of propulsion; CATF needs to encourage and show them this battery technology is a proven concept; furthermore, we must continue to look for funding so that cost is not a factor that inhibits this shift.