

Minutes

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, May 7th, 2021

Zoom

CATF members present: Ben Robinson (BR), Kate Warner (KW), Alan Strahler (AS), Tristan Israel (TI), Rob Hannemann (RH), Kathy Newman (KN), Bob Johnston (BJ), Richard Toole (RT), Alan Strahler (AS), Dan Doyle (DD), Erik Peckar (EP), Liz Durkee (LD)

Others in Attendance: Susan Wasserman (SW), Melinda Loberg (ML), Phil Wallis (PW) near end of meeting

I. Eversource meeting recap

RH: Eversource reps did not make a compelling case as to why they cancelled the battery storage facility. As of now, they are planning to add just one additional cable of same size. Such inadequate planning is more than just a climate issue. They hope to bring a new cable online in 2025; said cable is expected to meet peak demand and eliminate the need for back up diesel generators.

BR: We are the only community in Eversource portfolio that is served by a submarine cable. We currently have four cables; the most recent was installed 7 years ago; 3 of our cables are nearing the end of their design life and have been derated as far as the way they operate.

Eversource is 90% sure the new cable will land at East Chop.

Next steps: reconcile Eversource MV demand projections with CATF/VSEC expected demand increase to determine if one 23 kv cable addition is sufficient.

RT inquired about the delay with Oak Bluffs town solar project.

Eversource did not provide insight on this.

EP: permitting process will take 18 months. Steps are 1st to permit through EEA which yields an Environmental Impact Report: Energy Siting Review Board then takes it through the DPU; proposal must show it provides a reliable energy supply; minimizes environmental impact; and is cost effective.

RH: Fifty % of Political Outreach Working Group should be focused on working with Eversource.

BR: We need to sort of triangulate the managers and Engineering team and continue to cultivate our credibility with the managers so they have info needed to substantiate their own engineers' claims.

TI: In Bourne, there is a switch station hearing coming up.

RA: this relates to exporting clean energy and the conversion from offshore wind energy supply. At the moment, 3 of our cables enter at West Chop and the 4th arrives in Oak Bluffs. A new landing site on the island will have political objections, yet the Energy Review Siting Board require preferred alternative

landing sites. MVC can influence the preferred alternative and alternative cable landing locations for review at the EFSB. We (MVC) should at that time request intervener status in the process. Erik can update on the process to strategize toward this end.

II. EEA meeting with Undersecretary of Energy, Judy Chang, and EEA's Global Warming Solutions Manager, Hanh Chu

BR: This meeting is scheduled for just a half hour.

TI: We should plug our MVP application.

RH will attend to assist in explaining our energy related focus.

KW: members should ask about assisting towns who want to move forward with all electric zoning, and fossil fuel reduction, along with solar hookups.

LD: permitting process for adaptation projects is another issue to discuss.

BR: Our chief aim should be to understand the framework within EEA to achieve the roadmap's aims, along with getting key contacts to follow up with.

RA: Please use Erik Peckar as a resource for permitting issues.

EP: CZM is in the process of drafting their next Ocean Plan.

Liz, Ben, Rob, Erik and Dan will join the meeting with EEA.

III. Cape Light Compact meeting on Wed. May 12th

KW: Dan should invite the CLC reps from the towns and county. Erik will send a list of those contacts to Dan.

RH: Meeting will be with Maggie Downey, along with a number of her staff.

IV. Education Subcommittee

LD: All island organizations were invited to participate in Climate Week; over 30 organizations attended the 1st Climate Week Info session and showed strong interest.

Vineyard Power will hold an Electric Vehicle Parade.

V. Fundraising Committee

KN: MV Community Fund is the best fit for us to set up a small 501C3 under their auspices; this entity would control the dispensation of funds distributed to towns within Dukes County Towns, through an Advisory Board.

In the Goals section of this proposal we should consider using “Vineyard & Gosnold” as opposed to “Dukes County”; LD noted this committee will revisit the language.

TI: County is a great vehicle to advance certain initiatives.

VI. Other items

TI: Federal money amounting to \$3.2 million will be arriving at the County in two increments under the banner of the of the Recovery Act. Most will likely be distributed across the towns.

BR: perhaps some of the money could be used as seed money for the Fundraising C'tee's work. TI will be getting more info about how it can be spent in the coming weeks and how much the towns will receive.

BR: Nantucket is pivoting attention away from the joint Supply Chain grant proposal to examine PFAS presence across their island water resources along with a point-origin understanding.

SW: next Friday at noon VTA will be having their ribbon cutting; this might be a good networking opportunity.

TI: Prince Edward Island is doing remarkable work on the sustainability front. We should stay apprised.

BR plans to follow up with Bob Davis regarding their progress on a feasibility study to assess electrification of their vessel fleet.

KN: do towns other than Aquinnah have a zoning ordinance regarding tree clearing?

KW noted the complexity of the carbon sequestration process. A conversation ensued and group agreed that the science (study by Woodwell) will be needed to justify changes in policies regarding tree razing.

AS: Two info sessions on the Stretch Code will be held and will include two experts on the issue (Tuesday, May 11th 4 pm and Monday, the 17th). There will also be an Info session on the 100% Renewable warrant article; an alert will be distributed through ICAN.

LD: let's remind voters of the cost savings involved in electrifying our homes.

BR: For medical reasons, Bill Straw has to step down from his work as Chair of Tisbury's Energy C'tee and their rep for VSEC. This has left a huge void. We should think of knowledgeable individuals in Tisbury or those with a willingness to learn about this issue.

LD: CAP grant application was filed with MVP this past Wednesday.