

Minutes

MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, December 4, 2020

Zoom

CATF members present: Richard Toole, Ben Robinson, Kate Warner, Rob Hannemann, Erik Peckar, Kathy Newman, Alan Strahler, Joan Malkin, Tristan Israel, Bob Johnston, Phil Wallis, Beckie Finn, Liz Durkee, Bob Johnston, Noli Taylor, Dan Doyle, Alex Elvin

Others in Attendance: Cheryl Doble, Doug Finn

I. MVC Energy Policy update

Ben Robinson has presented the Draft policy to Chilmark. Schedule for the other towns will take place as follows:

Oak Bluffs: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 4:30PM

West Tisbury: Wednesday, Dec. 16, 4:40PM

Aquinnah BOS: Jan 5th 5 pm

Edgartown Planning Board-Energy Committee presentation will probably be the first week of January. Edgartown BOS would happen after that. Tisbury is TBD.

MV Builders Association will be presented to on 12/17.

Ben and Alex will compile the comments from these meetings and then circulate them to CATF. By the end of January, the policy should be updated. In the meantime, Commissioners want to get the word out. From there, an assessment can be made if the policy can be implemented in a practical way that is not overly burdensome. Awareness could be boosted by including mention of the policy work in the town by town newspaper gossip sections of sorts. ICAN provided a plug for it already as well. It's important for proponents to connect the town's 100% Renewable Energy warrant articles to the policy, as well.

When presenting to town boards, scenarios should be discussed in explaining the implications for the respective town and hypothetical developments.

Bob noted that he recently spoke to the Mayor of St Augustine's. He indicated that they made bigger gains in their resiliency planning when they were able to articulate the costs of inaction by 2030.

The policy sets the stage for greater resilience on the Vineyard MV, and it's also an opportunity to better educate islanders on these issues.

II. Letter to Legislators

Given earmarking is likely to return to Congress, the likelihood of a large infrastructure bill is increased; each legislator will be able to ensure dollars are invested in their respective communities. Passage will likely happen by next summer which doesn't leave very much time to cultivate a relationship with their offices. Ben and Dan drafted a letter that will ultimately be sent to Senator Warren, Congressman Keating, and Senator Markey's offices to initiate this dialogue.

Discussion ensued over who should be copied. John Kerry? the Biden Administration?

Ben and Dan will work on revising the letter and making sure it's stated early on that we are a nimble and shovel ready community for projects, and furthermore, we offer an opportunity to showcase innovative resiliency measures and initiatives.

We must underscore that we aim to be a model community for resiliency and follow up these letters with phone calls to the rep offices. Andrew Nelson may prove a helpful resource in crafting the letter.

III. Recap of 2020 – CATF work

The progress and initiatives below were presented to members. There was discussion over whether an educational resource designed for the general public or publication of the Energy Working papers and associated graphics would be best suited for the upcoming EDEY Foundation grant cycle. The prospect of applying for both of them as part of a larger integrated effort was also floated. Perhaps MVC and VSEC could submit a joint application. Dan noted MVC staff was concerned about the Commission applying for additional funds before existing/outstanding EDEY award deliverables have been completed.

CRC will develop a package which includes recommendations for the composition of Climate Resiliency groups, for each town as a follow up to the Adaptation booklet presentation.

More focused conversation began around how to improve our visibility and efforts in mediums which people actually read. Liz will eventually spearhead a meeting to discuss these types of public platforms and how to leverage them for resiliency communications.

Kate noted that based on her Climate Resiliency Committee's ability, she believes town committees will need guidance and direction from regional entities such as CATF.

IV. Other items

The NY Times has a [Climate Hub](#) with a series broadcasts/podcasts