

**Oak Bluffs Association Listening Session
Wednesday, February 10, 2021**

**Dan Doyle, Ben Robinson, Tristan Israel, Liz Durkee
Christine Todd, Renne balter, Nora Fuson**

Christine: How will climate change impacts tourism?

Liz: Extreme weather and damages will result in fewer visitors and a decline in the coastal real estate market will affect the economy. A Outer banks study noted that even the threat of weather impact affects people's vacation choices

Dan: We need to engage the Steamship Authority more in terms of fewer cancellations, climate adaptation

Ben: there will also be opportunities: It's always a few degrees cooler here. There has to be a willingness to address the changing economy, to plan for post-hurricane recovery, to low at a green economy

Liz: We need to turn challenges into opportunities

Renee: What about supplies and flooding?

Ben: Mentioned the Storm Tide Pathways project to identify flooding. With regard to supplies he said we need to get away from fossil fuels and be more energy independent

Liz: There are innovative ways to address flooding - channel the water where you want it to go, parks as flood retention basins

Dan: A man who works on amphibious foundations has a home here

Tristan: We need to protect the fish and shellfish and wetlands

Ben: People come here to interact with the water

Christine: What about accessibility to town in storms - is MA DOT doing anything?

Ben: It's up to us - we need to rally and get the business people on board and think about a new economy

Liz: MA DOT has started addressing their coastal roads but it will take them a long time to do so for the entire state; they are doing studies now

Ben: there is an urgency for us to act

Christine: During Covid the there down-Island business associations worked together

Liz: we need a coalition of businesspeople to work with the CATF to address the economic impacts of climate change

Ben: We need to strengthen county government. The County can do things the towns can't do. We need business support for a stronger county government

Christine: Is trying to improve the image of the county; the county is cosponsoring a vaccine forum on Friday

Ben: the pandemic is a climate issues

Hospitality

Christine: a new MV Hospitality group has been established and they have applied for a grant to add hospitality vocational training at the high school.

Liz: We have to market the Island in a different way, not for beaches for all the other things the island has to offer; she will be starting a coalition of businesspeople and climate people to address the economic impacts of climate change

Nora: the pandemic affects banking; people are banking from home, fewer people on Circuit Avenue

Christine: The town got a Rapid Recovery grant to have a consultant look at the downtown in light of covid

Renee: What about a presentation on climate change at all the town meetings, League of Women voters mailing lists, Islander's Talk to get the message out?

Ben: Four of the Towns have the 100% renewable article coming up at town meeting which will bring awareness

Christine: how to develop businesses that are not seasonal?

Ben: put it in historical context. OB was always a summer resort, Edgartown was year-round and is now summer, and Tisbury has the SSA.

Tristan: musicians need places to play

Christine: some business don't want to evolve

Tristan: People want better fiberoptic here

Liz: We have so many artists and talented people; the off-season is going to be warmer which may attract more people, there will be fewer winter sports so people will be looking for winter vacation spots, and there are enough people living here not support year-round businesses if people commit to buying local

Ben: stable housing is a climate justice issue

Liz: people who live in a historic community don't like change but change is coming and we need to evolve wisely

The CRC will hold listening sessions with the other business associations, perhaps together and follow-up on this discussion

Liz
2/10/21