

Minutes of the Climate Advisory Subcommittee 7/21/26

Present: Nicola Blake (co-chair), Sue Hruby (co-chair), Michelle Gittlen, Kate Guiney (admin)

Meeting called to order 9:03 am.

Nicola asked that the minutes of 6/16 reflect that \$50k from the State for MVP 2.0 will be pooled with money from several other towns. Kate will add this.

Michelle moved to approve the minutes as amended, Nicola seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

As chairs, Nicola and Sue will meet Thursday with the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) and other participating towns to draft the job description for the MVP 2.0 coordinating position, where to advertise it, etc.

Sue and Nicola reported that the meeting of the Climate Book Club for *Historic Storms of Martha's Vineyard* was well-attended. Next book will be *Human Nature* by Kate Marvel.

The Committee discussed the Climate Forum, which Kate confirmed will take place for West Tisbury on October 17 at the Library, time tbd. Clarification from MVC was needed around exact responsibilities of CAC vs. MVC, and actual scope of topics for presentation. Jenelle Gadowski and Fire Chief Pachico were mentioned as possible panelists. There was also a question whether focus should be island-wide. It was decided to invite Peter Glass, Forum contact at the MVC, to the next CAC meeting 8/18. (More on Climate Forum below.)

New Member Recruitment: One lead hasn't yet responded; two other leads were suggested. Nicola will contact one, Sue the other. A third prospect doesn't live in West Tisbury so her eligibility will have to be confirmed with Jen Rand.

Sue and Kate will meet with the ZBA on Thursday 7/23 at 5 at Town Hall to discuss the Land Use Bylaw (LUB); the ZBA has a copy. The latest iteration of the LUB will be distributed to Jane Rossi and Leah Smith of the Planning Board (PB) after gauging the response of the ZBA.

Update on Floodplain (FZB) and Coastal Resilience (CRZ) Bylaws: Kate will touch base with Angela Luckey re: the CRZ working group/subcommittee with ConComm. The hope is Angela's participation along with one other ConComm member. The PB is waiting for guidance from the CAC re: FZB. It was decided the CAC would ask Shannon Hulst of WHOI exactly what proposition—in simple terms—the CAC can bring to the ZBA and PB when presenting the FZB. Kate will obtain and distribute bylaws and/or regulations recently passed by three Cape Cod towns.

Kate reviewed the the MA Floodplain Management (MassFM) presentation; her main takeaway was a clarification (to her anyway) that since ConComm already has jurisdiction over the FEMA floodplain + 100 ft, it makes sense politically to implement CRZ regulations that don't need a Town vote; expansion of jurisdiction through Town vote may be easier at a later stage with regulations already in place. The FZB, which pertains to infrastructure, will need a Town vote and is a separate matter.

Sakiko Isomichi of the MVC entered the meeting and was able to clarify issues regarding the Climate Forum and where the responsibilities of the CAC lie. Sakiko said that because different towns had different capacities, she'd left many of the specifics open. She welcomed towns' input regarding whom to invite to speak and could facilitate any of those invitations.

The content of the panel can be anything in the Public Health & Safety section of the island's Climate Action Plan. Sue noted the Board of Health should be brought into Forum planning discussions or as panelist. CAC has discretion whether focus is limited to West Tisbury or is island-wide. Nicola felt it was important to have reps from the CERT teams of Chappy and Aquinnah. Sue agreed, but cautioned CERT teams can be seized upon as a single answer to the exclusion of others. It was agreed the Town's Forum should be island-wide, since this was likely to draw greater attention and attendance. The County should also be invited.

Sakiko said it was undecided who would be responsible for the logistics—refreshments, communication, etc.—but her preference was that this fall to MVC.

The time of the next CAC meeting 8/18 was moved to 10 am to accommodate MVC.

It was agreed that all CAC members would read the Public Health & Safety section of the Island Plan in preparation for the next meeting.

Action Items:

- Kate will ask Jenelle to save the date for 10/17
- Kate will ask Angela about the CAC/ConComm subcommittee
- Kate/Sue will ask Jen whether a non-resident can be a CAC member
- Kate will invite Peter Glass to meeting 8/18
- Nicola will contact Kathy Brennan
- Someone (?) will contact Alex Lam from Board of Health
- Kate will contact Shannon Hulst for FZB proposition to bring to PB/ZBA
- Kate will obtain copies of the bylaws of towns that have passed CRZ/FZB
- Sue will contact Jana Burktau

Nicola motioned to adjourn the meeting, Michelle seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned 10:03 am

