Approved 11/17/26

Minutes of the Climate Advisory Committee 10/20/26

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

Also present: Kuan Yin Bissonette, Cathy Brennan

Nicola made a motion to approve the minutes of 9/16/26. Michelle seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Michelle explained her work with MVP 2.0 and gave Cathy an idea of what her experience may be as Town liaison. The Town and Community liaisons met regularly for exploratory work around climate change and its impact on vulnerable island populations: What resources might they need in a climate crisis? They also conducted outreach, gathering information to process and later bring to their respective select boards. For a summary of this work, Michelle recommended that Cathy ask Sakiko, Meghan Gombos, and/or Beth Kramer.

Nicola moved to appoint Cathy as MVP 2.0 Town Liaison. Roll call vote unanimous.

Michelle moved to appoint Cathy to the Climate Advisory Committee. Roll call vote unanimous.

Climate Forum: It was agreed the Climate Forum at the Library on 10/17 went well. Kate will provide a summary.

MVP 2.0: Cathy reported the new phase of MVP 2.0 will convene on a weekly basis starting in November. Its overall focus will be town shelters, stay bags, and a pilot in each town to build a neighborhood-readiness network. It's hoped that through later grant money readiness networks can expand island-wide.

Kuan Yin said the current project runs now until the end of June, with a continued emphasis on serving priority populations on the island. The pilot projects, called Neighborhood Ready, will include compiling lists of contacts, appointing leads and back-ups, inventorying resources (such as neighborhood generators) and identifying vulnerable members in the neighborhood.

Emergency shelters will also be an MVP 2.0 focus: What are the best routes? What are alternates? The goal is to standardize and share understanding. The Dukes County Emergency Management website will be overhauled to make its information consistent and user-friendly, and island organizations will then be asked to link directly to the new website so it can serve as a unified source of information. For stay bags, various contingencies will be considered, especially for those without room to store a bag: Could there be a place bags are kept and then retrieved before a storm?

CRZ Working Group: The group had its preliminary meeting, and documents were generated to look at where and how the CRZ regulations can intersect with the Town's existing Wetlands Bylaw. Kate explained the CRZ as a concept: the two model bylaws and the regulations. She will also send the one-pager on the Land Use Bylaw to Cathy and Kuan Yin.

Nicola made a motion to adjourn. Michelle seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Next meeting 11/17/26 at 9 am.

Meeting adjourned 9:58 am.