

Climate Advisory Committee Minutes 8/18/26

Present: Nicola Blake, Michelle Gittlen, Sue Hruby

Also present: Sakiko Isomichi and Peter Glass (Martha's Vineyard Commission), David Fielder

Meeting begun at 10:05 am.

Nicola made a motion to approve minutes of 8/21. Michelle seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Climate Forum: Kate has spoken with Jenelle Gadowski, Town Emergency Management Director, who is available October 17; Jenelle must confirm her availability with her superiors. Peter confirmed that the format of the forum will be a panel of speakers with Sakiko moderating, Q & A session to follow. David related how the Island Interfaith Climate Action Network—the West Tisbury Congregational Church in particular, of which he is a member—operated to reach people over the recent blizzard. The Network focused on understanding key players in an emergency, what messaging to take back to their congregants, and how the Network could support other groups such as emergency responders.

It was decided that West Tisbury's panel would consist of Jenelle, the Fire Chief (if available), Jana Bertkau (representing the WT Congregational Church) and Martina Thornton of Dukes County. Each will narrate his or her experience during the recent blizzard. Afterward, they'll discuss what went well, what didn't go well, what was surprising, and what is likely transferable from West Tisbury's experience to the whole island.

Nicola suggested hanging posterboards in the panel room with personal blizzard stories as a way to prompt discussions. Panelists should also advise individuals as to what they should have in the case of a hurricane or blizzard, as well as how certain groups—those with health issues, the elderly, or who live down long roads without generators—should prepare. The panel can have a particular focus on networks of communication. Peter will book 2-5 pm on October 17 with the Library, with the panel to start at either 2 or 3. Sakiko will reach out to Martina, Michelle will reach out to Chief Pachico, and Kate will contact Jenelle for coordination. Sakiko suggested that Nicola and Sue give a brief introduction before the panel starts.

MVP 2.0: Sakiko reported an offer has been made for the overall coordinator role; they're waiting to hear back. Each town must designate a town liaison; they need to be available for 160 hours over 10 months and will receive a \$10k stipend.

New members: David said that Jana Bertkau is extremely busy but willing to consider membership. David was open to being an alternate, and will speak further with Jana. Nicola

queried another lead, but that person was engaged in other activities. Sue said a different lead had responded and was open to join if she could fit it in her schedule.

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.