Approved 11/18/26

EC Minutes September 9, 2026

Present: Richard Andre (chair), Nicola Blake, Jim Leonard (vice chair), John Stanwood, Kate Guiney (admin)

Absent: Alex Salop

Also present: Sakiko Isomichi

Meeting called to order 8:33 am.

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes of 7/8/26. Nicola seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Next meeting dates are 11/11/26 and 1/13/27. An RFQ subcommittee meeting will be held on 10/14.

Kate reported residents must opt back in for Town email alerts due to the website's transfer to a new server. Also, the Town Clerk will notify committee members every two years when they must (re)take ethics training.

EC Webpage: Kate will reposition Cape Light Compact (CLC) prices for the second half of the year and reinstate a lost heading.

Cape Light Compact: Nicola reported the July CLC meeting was short and the August meeting wasn't convened. July's meeting concerned Time-Varying Rates (TVR): Smart meters will be installed on the Vineyard by the end of 2027. At its next meeting, the CLC will discuss advanced metering structure; Eversource basic service will offer varying rates first and the CLC wants an equal footing. Richard noted that individual smart meter data will be useful for resiliency planning when determining residential battery needs.

Nicola noted a button on the CLC website—"See What I May Qualify For"—that would be useful if hyperlinked to the EC webpage. The button leads residents through a series of questions and specifies various rebates, incentives, and loans. Kate will add this link to the website.

CLC has already started to look at the 2028–2020 Energy Efficiency Plan timeline, although the Massachusetts Energy Bill remains in reconciliation in the MA Legislature. Richard asked that the value of the Community First Partnership on the Vineyard be advocated for inclusion in the Three-Year Plan.

School Space Needs: Kate will contact Alex Salop for an update on the School Space Needs study.

META Grant: The META grant, now concluded, it costs a little over $16k, short of the awarded $25k.

Climate Leaders Technical Assistance Grant: Richard shared his initial draft RFQ, which indicates the Town has already received and completed a grant to design an air-to-water heat system to replace an oil-fired boiler. The new grant will fund a study to assess the projected load of the Public Safety Building once the new hydronic system has been installed, as well as determine battery size for a micro-gird and assess current generator capacity. Once the feasibility study is complete, the Town can apply for an Accelerator Grant of up to $1m to install the hydronic system and micro-grid.

MA General Law (MGL) dictates whether an RFP, RFQ, or RFI be used for procuring the study. Under MGL, procurement for non-energy projects over $50k requires an RFP; a project up to $50k can be single-sourced (Chapter 30B). Energy-related projects, however, have a higher threshold of $300k, below which things can be single-sourced (Chapter 25). Richard will contact the DOER with his draft RFQ to ask whether its procurement process falls under Chapter 25 or 30.

New Business

Richard sent a Climate Action Plan update to the Martha's Vineyard Commission, Sakiko had a question regarding the Specialized Code. Currently, the Stretch Code requires EV-ready wiring but doesn't require an actual parking space for an EV. Does the Specialized Code require both EV-ready wiring *and* an EV parking space? This was flagged for discussion next meeting.

Richard asked for a motion to close. John motioned, Jim seconded. Roll call vote unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:29 am.

Action items:

- Kate will have Shawn correct webpage
- Kate will add "See What I May Qualify For" link to webpage
- Kate will ask Alex for an update in writing re: the School Space Needs study
- EC will clarify distinctions between Specialized and Stretch code re: EV-ready wiring
- Richard will contact DOER with RFQ to clarify procurement procedures