

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 3, 2022, 8:30 AM
Zoom

Present: Chair – Kimberly Kirk, Roxanne Ackerman, Amy Houghton, Kathryn Shertzer*, Michael Watts*

Others/Staff: Martha's Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) Administrator – Angela E. Gompert, Island Climate Action Network (ICAN) – Noli Taylor, Climate Advisory Committee Chair, West Tisbury – Kate Warner, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) Program Administrator – Jade Lu, Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects – Samuel Hart, Finance Director – Suzanne Cioffi, Transportation Director – Marc Rivers, Transportation Assistant – Chyenney Ward, Facilities Director – Mike Taus,

Supt.'s Office: Superintendent – Matthew D'Andrea, School Business Administrator – Mark Friedman, Director of Student Support Services – Hope MacLeod

Towns/County: Oak Bluffs – Maura McGroarty

Recorder: Teresa Kruszewski **Late arrivals or early departures of Sub-Committee members (see * in text)*

Call to Order: (Agenda Item #I)

The meeting of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Transportation Sub-Committee was called to order by Chair Kimberly Kirk at 8:36 AM on Thursday, February 3, 2022. Participation was available remotely by Zoom. To preserve bandwidth, it was suggested that participants join via the Zoom audio and reserve video links for Committee members and administration; the meeting was recorded.

(Recorder's Note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity).

Approval of Minutes: (Agenda Item #II)

Tabled.

Discussion of Options for Electrification of Bus Fleet: (Agenda Item #III)

- ❖ Noli Taylor said Federal money was becoming available through the Infrastructure Bill and those furthest down the road would have better chances of getting funded; it rewarded the early starters. Knowing there were risks involved, including upfront investments, she presented the benefits of working with Highland, a private partnership. Chair Kirk thanked her for the presentation and asked Ms. Taylor to share the materials with the Committee for further review.
- ❖ Committee members discussed what sort of partnership Highland had with the Beverly School System, how many electric buses were in their fleet and the transition process; it was recommended their Director of Transportation speak with this Committee.
- ❖ Angela Gompert said this was an overview of the type of program available; many details would have to be worked out - the Request For Proposal (RFP) process was where that happened. Ms. Gompert said this was a lengthy undertaking; she suggested a hybrid approach with someone like Highland.
- ❖ Jade Lu said she was happy to answer any questions on electric school bus deployments.
- ❖ Mark Friedman said many details needed to be clarified; the language needed to be specific - fuel savings vs. cost neutrality; what were the true operating costs without a source of upfront capital?
- ❖ Chair Kirk asked how many districts were 100% electric? Ms. Gompert replied many were committed but none were completed, as it was a 10 year process.
- ❖ Discussion ensued around how energy was sold back to the grid, what was involved and how to achieve cost neutrality especially with the spikes in use/demand during the summer.
- ❖ Ms. Gompert said the life cycle of an electric bus was 12 years; the schools would continue to average

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10 years. After being in production now for three years, the buses were getting better and soon competition would follow. Roxanne Ackerman asked if we could learn from any international electrification models; what sort of competition was out there?

- ❖ Ms. Gompert said battery compositions varied, some were safer/greener than others. After-life uses could include turning them into storage units, generators to the building or portable classrooms. The disposal market would get better over time.

Michael Watts left at 9:03 AM

Kathryn Shertzer left at 9:05 AM

Update on Sanderson Road Planning: (Agenda Item #IV)

Samuel Hart said he was waiting for the plans of a 'reimagined' Sanderson Road from Christian C. Huntress RLA, President & Project Manager of Huntress Associates Inc., Andover MA. The rendering was part of the Field Project: adding a sidewalk and/or relocation of the bus depot were examples but unknown. The future of the campus, Mr. Hart said, was to build out in a thoughtful way and to include renewable energy; he will share the plans with the Committee once they are received.

Topics not reasonably anticipated by the Chair: (Agenda Item #V)

None.

Adjournment: (Agenda Item #VI)

AMY HOUGHTON MOVED TO ADJOURN THE TRANSPORTATION SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING AT 9:18 AM; KIMBERLY KIRK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. MS. ACKERMAN—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE & MS. KIRK—AYE.

Meetings/Events: (by Zoom)

- Transportation Sub-Committee Meeting: February 17, 2022 at 8:30 AM.

Documents on File:

- 1) 2.3.22 Transportation Sub Committee.pdf

Respectfully submitted,



Teresa Kruszewski – Recorder

March 10, 2022

Date

Kimberly Kirk – Transportation Chair

Date

Matthew D'Andrea – MVRHSD Superintendent

Date

Approved March 10, 2022