

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 6/7/2011
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Jim Newman, Chairman, Spencer Booker, Beverly Wright

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Ron Rappaport, Liz Witham, Laurie Perry, Randhi Belain, Walter Delany, Carl Widdiss,

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

Spencer made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the Town's legal matters with Town Counsel. Beverly seconded.

The roll call vote was Jim (Y), Spencer (Y) and Beverly (Y).

-When the Board reconvened at 6:05 pm, Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from 5/19. Beverly seconded. In the discussion Beverly asked a few questions about follow up from the last meeting. **The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor of accepting the minutes from May 19th, 2011. The motion passed.**

-The 1st agenda item taken up was a request from Carl Widdiss on behalf of the Boston Area Roadsters to utilize the Aquinnah Circle for a car show exhibition June 18th from 11 to 3 pm. Board members reviewed what the Roadsters have contributed to local causes in the past. There was general approval but Carl was told to provide Adam with a copy of the club's liability policy to have on file prior to the event.

Spencer made a motion to approve the use of the Circle area for the BAR for June 18th from 11 to 3 pm. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Liz Witham, the town's web site provider. Beverly had questions about the architecture of the site and how it could be improved to provide more information to the public. Liz handed Board members a report showing that there were 8, 243 visits to the site last year which is a 34% increase from the previous year. There was discussion about the appropriation that pays for the site and Liz's services. Liz said there can opportunities to train more people to use the site and how to expand its services through different types of navigation. There was discussion about the dissemination of information and how the town could use its OCR to get large documents onto the site by different departments. Liz said that each department can have a greater level of involvement in posting news items and calendar events and archiving documents with some additional training. The Board thanked Liz for her report.

-Next on the agenda was a request from Berta Welch to fix the employee parking lot adjacent to the Cultural Center. Beverly talked about her problems getting in and out of the lot and where she can park. There was discussion about the property belonging to the Town and not being in ConCom's jurisdiction. Jim asked Adam to get in touch with Jay (Smalley) and see what can be done to improve the grade of the lot through basic landscaping.

-Jim next asked for a report of the beach situation with regards to plastic disks reported to have come from a sanitation plant in New Hampshire. Adam reported that the small disks pose no health threat to the public and that there needs to be an effort to have the public pick them up and dispose them. Randhi asked that there be a notice when Philbin and the Land Bank beaches opens to alert beachgoers about the disks and to ask that they be collected and thrown into the trash receptacles when leaving the beach.

-The next agenda item was an individual's request to purchase the collected oyster bags from the clean-up of the Ackerman aquaculture site. The Board decided to hold off on any kind of sale of the surplus materials until a process was completed seeking restitution of the cost of the clean-up.

-Chairman Jim next reviewed a letter from the Up Island Regional School District calling for 60 day window for the borrowing of 1.5 million to renovate the West Tisbury School. Board members discussed a warrant article to see if the Town will approve the borrowing authorized by the UIRSD for the purpose of paying costs of making extraordinary repairs to the school. There was discussion about setting up a Special Town Meeting July 7th. There was discussion about including an article for voters to decide whether or not to add to the Tri-Town Budget the amount requested in their proposed budget for FY '12 that was not recommended by the FinCom (\$25,909).

-Jim postponed the agenda item about the structural problems with the Old Town Hall until a meeting could be set up with Jerry (Wiener, Building Inspector).

-Under Selectmen's Other Business, Randhi made a request of the Board about signage for parking at the Circle and the hours (8am – 6pm) for restricted parking, fines for violations, six signs to be put up. Spencer made a motion to permit the Police Department to implement a one hour parking restriction enforced from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and to install six (6) signs stating such in the parking area up in the Cliff Parking Area. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Randhi made another request that the Town once again sends a letter to all shop owners at the Cliffs reminding them that they are only to park in the Town's employee lot or in the resident parking area down by the bathrooms. Adam said he'd write the letter with Randhi's help and also reminded the Board about (2) spaces being reserved for museum employees down in the resident parking area as well. There was talk about Carolyn (Feltz, Town Clerk), making parking passes for the museum employees so they could park in the resident parking area at the bottom of the hill instead of designating two spaces for them to park.

-In other business, Laurie Perry, Judiciary Coordinator for the Tribe, talked about a new agreement between the Tribe and town on sexual offender registries. She wants to have an MOA with the town police for a variety of enforcement services. She said the Tribe will acquire a palm print indentifying machine and other equipment to have different ways to register sexual offenders. There was discussion about having Town Counsel reviewing the document. The Board thought that the document needed approval and signatures of the Board and not just the Chief of Police. Adam said he'd send it to Counsel for review and opinion on signatory approval.

-Walter led a discussion about the Tri-Town committee's recommendation to have Paul "Zeke" Wilkins to become the new chief. He asked that if there is going to be a Special Town Meeting to include the

difference not approved at the Annual. There was discussion about the Tri-Town agreement and Aquinnah not being in “default” because there is a commitment to pay almost all of the Town’s share. There was discussion about how the assistant chief’s position was created by the Town of Chilmark’s classification policies. Randhi discussed the various shift schedules and who has coverage. There were questions about how much Tri-Town officials get paid. Jim said there has to be a meeting between the Selectmen of the 3 towns to discuss the overall strategy on the chain of command and how the service will run itself. Randhi talked about how the organizational structure and chain of command proposed for Tri-Town will eliminate the police chief’s involvement in managing the service. Jim thought the fire chief’s should have purview over the ambulance service. Walter added that with new personnel the Tri-Town committee would only have to have singular membership of selectmen from each town. Jim said the understanding between the towns, which is 34 years old, needs to be readdressed.

-The Board took up the issue of the Cliff Leases and the fact that the Board voted to approve a 4% increase in the leases both with individual lot users and the Tribe in a May meeting that should have occurred, according to the current lease language, in March.

There was discussion about rescinding the increase because of the language of the lease. Jim said there needs to be respect for what the lease says. Spencer said if the ball was dropped, the Town should honor what the lease says.

By consensus, the Board agreed to rescind the increase and have Adam send a letter stating such. It was also agreed that the change in payment schedule would remain (June 30th & July 31st).

-Adam let the Board know that Representative T. Madden will be in Aquinnah to look at CPC & AHC projects Thursday.

-Adam showed the Board the P & S agreement they need to sign for the purchase of 45 State Rd.

-Adam showed the Board a letter sent from the Cable Advisory Board asking for a denial from the Town of the agreement to negotiate a new 10 year contract with ComCast by June 30th so that negotiations can continue past the end of June deadline.

-Adam asked the Board to act as the FinCom in signing off on several reserve fund transfers Margie Spitz had assembled. Jim let Board Members know he had a meeting of the Town’s financial team to discuss management reporting issues and to set guidelines for future reports in the new fiscal year. Jim said there will be other meetings, perhaps once a month. Beverly expressed an interest in being a part of those meetings.

-The meeting was motioned and seconded to adjourn.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-The meeting ended at 7:15 pm.