

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 8/11/2010
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Camille Rose, Chairman, Spencer Booker, Jim Newman

Also present: Jeff Burgoyne, Town Coordinator, Town Accountant Marjorie Spitz, various members of the general public.

The meeting began at 8:00 am

Camille introduced the meeting as a continuation of the ongoing talks between the town and the Tribe regarding the closed beach path off Lobsterville Road. Jim reported there had been a meeting on Saturday between the two governments. Jim said the tribal council asked what grounds the town had to say that the path off of Clay Pit Rd belonged to the town and not to the Tribe. Jim said he got back together with the Council and Ron Rappaport on Monday with specific documents to show that town residents had a right to traverse this path. Jim reported that there were only three of the eleven members of the council present at that meeting and that they would take the findings presented to them to the full council for further deliberation. There was discussion on the maintenance of the pathways according to the guidelines of the state's division of natural resources.

-There was discussion on how both governments will comply with conservation regulations. Marjorie asked if there was an agreement for the two entities to meet regularly about land use management. Camille said that used to happen but has gone by the wayside in recent years. There was discussion on the lack of communication between the two governments and the use of open meeting laws to regulate proposed future meetings between the two communities.

-There was discussion about the barriers that have been put up and also the effort by individuals to take them away. Jim and Camille talked about the barrier issue blocking the path violating coastal zone and wetlands by-laws. Camille asked Jim if he knew when the decision was made to close the path. Jim said he did not know. There was discussion on the possibility it had been closed since May. Spencer said that the tribe has tried to close the path every year and puts a natural obstruction there which eventually gets removed and nothing more happens until the following May. This year was different because herbicides were used on the path and that is not allowed on any of the acreage the Tribe owns.

-There was discussion on areas where there has been weed spraying the Tribe has done at the request of the Town. Jim said that Counsel presented an opinion that the path should be open to the public, that a public was always there and that at one point it was more of a road from Clay Pit Lane to a commercial pier.

-Members of the audience talked about the benign use of certain types of standard herbicides. There was discussion on the abuse the cliffs is subjected to every year and the effectiveness of patrols and posted information in keeping people off of them. Camille expressed her concern that cliff vandalism is a bigger problem than the path and there has to be more information and posted warnings to educate and warn people not to touch the cliffs.

-There was discussion the removal of debris from Menemsha Pond. Camille said the Town is ready to act according to guidelines established by Town Counsel. There was talk about the acceleration of cliff erosion and the manpower that is needed to protect the resource.

A motion was made by Jim & seconded by Spencer to adjourn.

The board voted 3 – 0. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 am.

