

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 10/04/2011
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Jim Newman, Chairman, Spencer Booker

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Christine Flynn, MVC; Liz Witham, Sgt. Paul Manning, Town Moderator Mike Hebert, Conservation Commission Chairman Sarah Thulin, Julia Kidd

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-The minutes from the 9/13 meeting were reviewed.

-Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from September 13th. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

-1st on the agenda was a public hearing to hear comments for the Aquinnah Community Development Strategy. Christine Flynn, the Commission's Economic Development and Community Housing Planner spoke of working with grant writer Alice Boyd for the Community Development Block Grant applications. She said Edgartown is taking the lead on applying for the grants and invited the up-island towns to apply with them grants for home rehabilitation and child care programs. Every town has to have its own development strategy to be eligible for the grants. There was discussion about each of the towns needing to pass their own development strategy programs. Christine said Edgartown and West Tisbury have already approved theirs. Other towns will follow.

-Jim opened the floor for public comment. There was none.

Spencer made a motion to close the public hearing. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

Spencer made a motion to accept the Aquinnah Community Development Strategy as presented. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

Next on the agenda was a discussion about Squibnocket Pond easement access. Adam explained that in order to work on getting the access opened once again and putting together a management plan, the Town needs a Notice Of Intent (NOI) with the Conservation Commission (ConCom). Sarah said that the folks at Sherriff's Meadow are aware that the town wants to reestablish the walking path to the pond and that if the town were to hire as consultants the engineering firm who surveyed and staked out the easement granted, the town can take the lead in getting the necessary permissions done the right way with notification going to all the players (Natural Heritage, Trustees of Reservations, Sheriff's Meadow) involved with the precious resource. Adam said the cost using Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn as consultants would cost \$2,000.

By consensus the Board decided that the Town should move forward hiring a consultant to apply for an NOI to the ConCom.

-Jim asked that the Board hold off on the agenda item about the Building Inspector's position until the next meeting when Beverly would be available to discuss it.

-Next on the agenda Adam reported that the help wanted ad for a new Emergency Management Director has yielded 3 responses for the job position. The Board reviewed the letters of interest and agreed to set up a time to interview all three candidates sometime after October 15th when Jim returns from his trip to Paris.

-Next on the agenda was the Request For Proposals (RFP) being developed for solar array panels at the Landfill. Jim talked about how the contract arrangement the Town would have would be a lease for ten

years and then the town would own the system. In the meantime there would be a cost savings in the electricity used by the Town. There was discussion about other towns having similar projects. Jim said that prior to signing any contract, an approval at Town Meeting must occur. Liz Witham had questions about the cost of the project and how the Town economically benefits. Adam and Liz discussed the interconnection permit needed from NSTAR and Board of Health approval to protect the landfill's membrane. There was discussion about how the project will benefit the Town's attempt to come into compliance with the Green Community Act. Adam stated the RFP looks for a small (less than 60kw) system because there is not enough viable land for a larger one. There was discussion about the credits the town will receive for the renewable energy. Adam talked about the small window there is to get a contract in place because of available tax credits the contractor must have by December 31st in order to make the project economically viable. There was discussion about the life expectancy of the photovoltaic panels and the tax credits that will expire at the end of the year.

By consensus the Board agreed to move forward with the planned project and advertise the RFP in this week's newspaper.

-Next on the agenda was Julia Kidd who spoke to the Board about a project she wants to do which is to place positive message signs in various locations around the island. She was asking permission to put one of her signs up for one or two weeks at the Aquinnah Circle. The Board reviewed the design of the signs. Jim stated he had talked to Planning Board Chair Peter Temple and that his board does not need to review the sign since it is temporary and artistic in nature. She showed the Board the different messages she wants to put island wide. There was discussion about also having a sign at the library. Julia said she'd like to put it up at the Circle in November if she gets approvals from all the towns. Jim found the project intriguing.

By consensus the Board agreed to allow Julia to place a temporary artistic message sign for one to two weeks at the Aquinnah Circle.

-In other Selectmen's business the following occurred:

1. Spencer made a motion to affirm the Shellfish Committee's recommendation to open Menemsha Pond to family scalloping October 1st. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 to approve. The motion passed;

2. Adam informed Board Members that the Up Island Regional School District has two FY '13 budget meetings coming up;

3. Jo-Ann Taylor from the MVC is notifying all planning boards and Selectmen that there will be a public meeting November 3rd to discuss extending the regulations for the Island Wind DCPC;

4. There were handouts of an aerial display of where the solar array panel would go at the landfill + total electrical use by the town from its buildings and facilities;

5. By consensus that the Town would purchase a flag flown from the DC Capitol in honor of the retiring fire chief;

6. By consensus the Board reviewed and approved the help wanted ad for the tax taking specialist the town approved money for at the Town Special;

7. Mike publicly thanked Walter Delaney for stepping in to handle the Town Special Meetings. Jim asked Adam to write a thank you letter to Walter for his dutiful help.

Spencer made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 to approve. The motion passed;

The meeting ended at 6:25 pm