

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 12/04/2012  
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Sgt Paul Manning, Assistant Assessor Angela Cywinski, Elise LeBovit, Library Director Lisa Sherman, Betty Joslow, Jean Lince, Richard Skidmore, Hollis Smith, Harbormaster Chip Vanderhoop, Highway Superintendent Jay Smalley, Philippe Jordi from IHT, Virginia York, June Manning.

The meeting began at 5:00 pm

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda was a review of minutes from the 11-13 Selectmen's meeting.

-Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from November 13th. Beverly seconded.

In the discussion, Beverly remembered that the Fire Chief had stated that a fire alarm reset for Tribal buildings has to be done by their personnel for liability reasons. The minutes needed to include that protocol. Adam said he would amend the 11-13 minutes to include Chief Bollin's statements.

**The Board voted 3 - 0 in favor. The motion passed.**

-Jim asked if there has been any response to the Town's request to meet with Tribal leaders over public safety issues. Adam said there hasn't been any response to the letter sent September 10<sup>th</sup> by the Board to the Tribal Chairperson to review the Tribe-Town safety agreement as to the fire department's responsibilities and the Chief's role for the Tribe. There was discussion as to who is currently acting as the Tribal Administrator.

Spencer asked that another letter be sent for tracking purposes. Adam said he'd send another letter.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Lisa Sherman, the new Library Director. She said she's already been on the job for 3 weeks and has been warmly received. Adam asked how the CLAMS project was going. Lisa said it is proceeding and she's off island next week to learn more about the necessary software that is part of the project. She hopes to have the program available in February when all the necessary info has been migrated into the regional library data base.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the letters of interest submitted to serve on the Lighthouse Committee. Spencer asked if the Board was ready to choose a committee and how many people should be on it. Beverly said all eleven should be appointed temporarily and have them decide who should work at what aspect of the project and report back to the Board how they will organize themselves. She said the Board still has final say as to what is to be done in moving the lighthouse. There was discussion about the role this advisory committee would have. Spencer read off the 12 who applied: Aquinnah residents Meg Bodner, Robyn Robinson, Mitzi Pratt, Berta Welch, Liz Witham, Duncan Caldwell, Elise LeBovit and Larry Hohlt; Chris Scott from the Preservation Trust, Town Administrator Adam Wilson, David Nathans and Betsy Mayhew from the MV Museum.

-Beverly said the group should have a time frame to meet with the Board at their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in February. Jim said the group needs to have a goal in place. Beverly said she hopes they would meet with the Selectmen to let them know how they will be setting themselves up. There was discussion about how the committee will tackle fundraising, PR, grant writing, real estate and so on.

-Spencer asked if the 12 who applied should be pared down into a Board appointed committee of perhaps five people. The Board discussed the different tasks to be accomplished and how the group of 12 may be broken into several subcommittees each assigned a specific task.

-Jim asked Elise how she envisioned the makeup of the lighthouse committee. She thought it would be 5 people, all from Aquinnah, who would then form subcommittees to handle the various tasks. She said the remaining 7 people could be asked to handle a task that would be reported to committee and then to the Selectmen. Jim said the museum should be represented. Elise said they should not be allowed to vote on anything because they may have a different criterion from the Town's. Jim said that doesn't matter because the final decision is with the Selectmen. Elise talked about there being a "voting committee" who will decide for the town's benefit. Jim said the lighthouse committee will be advisory only; the Selectmen can either accept or reject their recommendations.

-Beverly said if it's an Advisory Committee, it can be as many people as who volunteered. She wants the 12 to set the criteria and to bring forth a mission statement. There was discussion about how the committee could centralize itself as a voting block but retain everyone else for specific tasks.

-Jim asked Adam in the Board could go into executive session to choose the lighthouse membership. Adam said it wasn't an appropriate use of the right to keep from the public the selection process under the Attorney General's rules.

-Spencer said if all 12 are appointed to the committee is what Jim and Beverly wants, then he'll go along with it.

-Adam discussed his perceived role as a point of information member who would administratively help put together meetings and provide oversight in e-mail correspondence. Elise asked if he was going to charge the Town for that service. There was discussion about adding this committee's organization to Adam's job duties. He said he would most likely be the person to write the application to the National Park Service requesting transfer of ownership. Beverly said someone else on the committee might end up with that responsibility. She raised her concern that doing that task might be too much of a burden for him with everything else he has to do as Town Administrator.

-Spencer said the Board should establish a specific number of people to be on the committee. Beverly said a number was never decided when the ad went out requesting letters of interest. Richard Skidmore said the lighthouse needs to be moved by 2015. He said there should be a core group of 5 – 7 people and then have the rest sorted out to sub committees.

-Jim said there just needs to be a committee. It comprises of different people with different interests. Richard said membership should take into account who's here year round and who's here seasonally. Different types of communication were discussed. Jim had a concern that not picking people will get people's feelings hurt. Elise said there needs to be a core group of 5 people to decide a mission statement, scheduling and make voted upon recommendations. Spencer agrees with what Richard and Elise are saying. Beverly said the 12 can figure out who will be the 5 -7 to be the advisory committee and who can lend their expertise in specific areas.

-Beverly made a motion to have the 12 contacted and meet to form their own 7 member central committee, develop a mission statement and write the advisory committee's organizational rules to present back to the Selectmen at their 1<sup>st</sup> meeting in February (5<sup>th</sup>). Jim seconded.

**The Board voted 2 in favor (Jim/Beverly) and 1 against (Spencer). The motion passed.**

-Next on the agenda was the tax rate classification hearing. Spencer read the public hearing notice. Angela said the LA-5 is done and needs a vote and sign off by the Board so the tax rate can be set. The LA-5 reported that there was an excess levy capacity of \$83,712.57. Angela reported this is the amount under what the town was allowed to spend for FY '12.

-Angela reported the tax rate being set will be \$4.32 per thousand, an increase of 39 cents from the previous year. She reported that 98% of all the taxes raised are from residential real estate. The other 2% comes from personal property and commercial.

-Jim made a motion to accept the report of the Assessor and to set the rate with a minimum recommendation factor of one. Beverly seconded.

**The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed. The Board signed the LA-5 form.**

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with the Shellfish Committee to open Menemsha Pond to commercial scalloping. Hollis said there are lots of scallops but because the water is still warm, they don't appear to be as fat and firm as in years past. He said the committee wants to recommend opening the pond for commercial scalloping on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. There was discussion about the scallop market being saturated and prices being very low.

Jim made a motion to accept the recommendation to open the pond for commercial scalloping on Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7 am. Beverly seconded.

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

There was discussion about changing many of the long forms questions and eliminating the need for a notarized signature. There was discussion on how to procedurally handle the applications. Hollis said there needs to be a simpler version of the long form. June asked what the residency requirement was. Hollis said it starts with living in town for 12 months.

-Next on the agenda was the Board approving and signing off on the liquor license renewals for the Aquinnah Shop and the Outermost Inn.

Jim made a motion to approve the liquor license renewals. Beverly seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was the approval of the winter road sanding contract. Jay explained how he got no bids and had to go out and recruit someone to take on the contract.

Jim made a motion to approve the contract. Beverly seconded.

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

There was discussion about the need for the town to do its own sanding in the future and what capital expenditures would be needed. Jim asked if it's something the Town and Tribe can do together. Jay said he'll look into it.

-Next on the agenda was the signing of the Land Disposition Agreement for Virginia York and the affordable home site lot she has. Richard explained how the final disposition will take place. Philippe said the 20K owed by IHT to the town for the land has to be a deferred payment because of the unique financing arrangement Virginia has with HUD. Virginia said the completion date of building her home is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Adam said there is precedent in delaying the land purchase in that West Tisbury has had to go through the same process as well with Habitat for Humanity.

Jim made a motion to approve the land disposition agreement with a deferred payment. Spencer seconded.

**The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed. The Board also signed off on the State Rd Ground Lease.**

-In the Town Administrator's report, Adam reported that there is interest by 3 different people wanting to represent the town on the Land Bank Committee. Jim thought that it would be better if a member of the Tribe could be the representative. He suggested Woody Vanderhoop would be a good choice because he knows local land uses and associated regulations.

-Adam also reported that TRI was coming to do an informational session on the Community Development Block Program at Town Hall on Wednesday at 5:30 pm. The program allows for grants to do home repairs and for child care services. He also reported he has finished an evaluation form for employees that are more simplistic than last year's and intends to pass it out to department heads by the end of the week.

-Adam confirmed that Board Members are all in agreement with the letter to C. Rose regarding the non renewal of her Menemsha Lot Lease. He also asked that the Board look at its meeting schedule for January and when the STM can be rescheduled. The Board agreed to meet again on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December and also on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Board agreed that they'll decide on reconvening the STM at the 12/18 meeting.

-Spencer asked if there was any other selectmen's business. Hearing none...

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

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

The meeting ended at 6:25 pm.