

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 5/1/2012
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Jim Newman, Chairman, Spencer Booker

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Police Chief Randhi Belain, Acting Deputy Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Donna & Gordon Perry, Berta Welch, Martha Vanderhoop, Carla Chuch, Adrianna Ignacio, Highway Superintendent Jay Smalley, Town Accountant Margie Spitz

The meeting began at 6:30 pm

Under old business was a review of the minutes from the Selectmen's meeting April 19th.

Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was the appointment of Simon Bollin as the new Fire Chief. Jim read the Mass General Law Chapter 48, Sec. 42 that refers to the appointment of municipal fire chiefs and all officers.

Spencer made the motion to appoint Simon Bollin as Aquinnah Fire Chief. Jim seconded.

Adam said the appointment should be done now and then again with everyone else's appointment in June. He said at that time the Board can make the appointment annually or for a period of years.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Jim complimented Simon for all his work while acting chief. Simon talked about a recent meeting he had with NSTAR on emergency issues. He said there was a call the previous night that was handled expeditiously and in an organized fashion.

-Next on the Agenda was a meeting with the Cliff Lease Lot Holders. Adam said that as part of the lease arrangement there is an annual meeting to discuss the upcoming season. There was discussion about the Board's wish to increase the rent by 4%. Adam was pointed out that since he has been administrator, there has been no increase in several years. There was discussion about the raise in rent being tied in with the cost of services to operate the Circle Area. The Land Bank's portable toilets were talked about as being a viable option for beach patrons.

-Berta asked about the receptacles needed for things like cigarette butts. It was discussed if they were effective or not. Berta asked if there can be receptacles for recycling and returnable. There was discussion about the concept of collecting recyclables/returnables. There was discussion about the number of 55 gallon drums available. Jay pointed out that there was a trash receptacle at the VTA bus stop and he's placed one at the bottom of the stairs.

-Adam talked of a need to adjust the leases so that the opening of the bathrooms will be earlier than May 1st and refuse pick-up can be available on the weekends.

-Simon talked about Fire Department's plans on how to tackle a fire at the cliff stores. He said fire personnel will be at the circle to figure out action plans to provide fires services for the shops. Adrianna asked about current parking time limits and moving the time up to an hour and a half instead of an hour. She said an hour is not long enough if people are visiting the lighthouse, eating and shopping. Randhi said the hours can be extended on the left side of the road as you go up around the circle. There was discussion about the signage on the right side of the road for bus parking and an additional no parking area when bus

traffic overflows. The Board, by consensus, agreed that there could be more overall parking at the Cliffs. Moving onto the new time limit of 1 ½ hours, there was discussion about changing the signage. Margie pointed out that a change in signage would over tax the highway department's budget.

Simon said the town parking spot by the hydrant close to the bathrooms needs to stay clear in case there is an emergency. When asked about the condition of the employee parking lot, Jay said that he has mowed the area and has done the necessary trimming.

Jim said the Selectmen will do a site visit with Randhi to determine what parking area can be increased and what spaces can be changed for additional time limits.

-There was brief discussion about the free parking available on Land Bank Property by the Homestead. Jim asked if the increase in time takes too much away from the pay lot.

-The Board agreed, by consensus, to change the time limit from an hour to an hour and a half. Randhi said that after visiting the site, final suggestions can be made at the next Selectmen's meeting.

-Simon said the current "feel good" sign is in the middle of a designated zone for a helicopter landing. Berta brought up a poison ivy issue at the fencing along the lookout. Jay said he'd talk with Bret (Stearns) at the Tribe about how to mitigate that problem.

-Next on the agenda was the passage of the Aquinnah Waterway Regulations. Adam explained that Brian (Vanderhoop) had crafted the regs to be similar to Chilmark's for the protection of the ponds. The document pointed out certain watercraft prohibitions, the establishment of fines and tackle regulations. Adam said the primary focus of the regs is to give the Harbormaster control of the boating that occurs in Menemsha pond.

Spencer made a motion to accept the waterway regulations as presented. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Adam gave his Town Administrator report:

- The Fall River Radio Club will be up at the Circle beginning Thursday for their amateur ham radio weekend;
- Adam had the Selectmen sign the Health Care Reform Agreement that culminates the meetings the employees had to mitigate the savings that have accrued under health care reform;
- Adam had the Selectmen sign the official ballot for next Wednesday's Election;
- The new floors have been installed in Town Hall. Adam said the windows are next. He said he has an estimate for Marvin Windows and is contacting Pella next;

-Adam asked about the next scheduled meeting. Jim said he's away from May 13th to the 29th. Adam said Beverly is not available for the scheduled meeting the 15th. There was discussion about meeting right after Town Meeting. Margie said that at the last Selectmen's meeting she passed on old information from the DOR about overrides that has now changed. She said the policy has been refined and it turns out that if there is an override for an operating budget and if the budget is pared down on town meeting floor, the Voting to occur the next day will be for the reduced amount. There was discussion about line items in the budget that have now found out to be less.

-There was discussion about the cost of hiring a new officer and having to send that person to the academy for training.

-Adam thanked Jim for his year as Chairman. Spencer asked if Jim wanted to be Chairman again. Jim declined.

-Spencer asked about the Squibnocket Easement. Adam reported that the pathway has been mowed and is open for Aquinnah residents' use as a walking path to the pond.

Spencer made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting ended at 7:23 pm.