

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 7/17/2012
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Police Chief Randhi Belain, Sgt Paul Manning, and Beverly Evans

The meeting began at 5:03 pm

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

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

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

-1st on the agenda under new business was a meeting with Nancy Gardella, Director of the MV Chamber of Commerce who represented the Martha's Vineyard Arts & Culture Collaborative. She said the Collaborative is directing a partnership between MV businesses and the arts and cultural organizations around the island. She said the Collaborative came together 18 months ago to take an inventory of all artists, studios, organizations to find out that artisans on Martha's Vineyard drives 10% of the island economy. There is now a partnership with the Chamber called "Fall for the Arts." It uses the shoulder season as a time to invite visitors back to the island to enjoy arts and cultural programs, exhibits and the like. Nancy said the program will run in October. She will be marketing the different programs to businesses and arts groups. She said the marketing program will bring a lot of coordinated effort to bring back business in the fall season as well as the spring. The Board thanked Nancy for her presentation.

-Next on the agenda was the question of increasing the parking time at the cliffs from an hour to 1 ½ hour. Adam pointed out that it was asked by the Cliff business owners if the time could be increased at the BOS meeting in May. Adam said there had been a site visit done by him and Randhi to look at the possibility of increasing the number of spaces. He had determined that because the area is a designated DCPC by the Commission, the expansion of parking space that has already occurred and proposed increases would trigger a DRI referral to the commission. Adam also stated that a "creep" effect is taking place that has allowed parking to go from a concentrated area in front of the shops to ½ way around the circle without setting boundaries.

-Randhi expressed a concern that turnover will diminish which will have a detrimental effect on the present parking situation. Jim asked if the overtime parking fine can be increased. Randhi said the \$25 fine is the maximum amount. Randhi said it's too late to change anything now and the idea should wait until next year.

-Beverly said there should be a meeting in the fall to go over the problems that existed during the season. Randhi said that by the fall he could report how many tickets were issued for overtime and if there is a need to make available more parking time for the cliff shops. Adam said he'd coordinate that meeting to take place in the Fall. Another issue brought up was the run off problem the path from the top of the circle down to the bathroom causes when there is a significant rainstorm. There was discussion about short term solutions and what can be done long term as far as terracing or creating a run off culvert for the path. Adam said he would like to see a professional landscape architect/engineer do an evaluation as to what was needed to prevent future earthslides into the bathrooms. Once the project was proposed, it could then be undertaken by Jay if he has the expertise, time and money in his budget or, the Town could raise the necessary funds in a fall warrant article to bid out the project to a landscaping firm. There was discussion about what's budgeted in the building & grounds budget and if there's enough money to do the entire project (At this point Randhi & Paul left the meeting on an emergency call).

-Next on the agenda were town committee appointments. Spencer read a letter from Jean Lince requesting appointment to the Up-Island Council on Aging Board. There was discussion about Jean replacing Gladys Widdiss and June Manning already being on the board.

-Jim made a motion to appoint Jean Lince to the Up-Island Council on Aging Board, Beverly seconded.

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

-Spencer read a request from School Superintendent J. Weiss asking for a representative from Aquinnah to serve on the All-Island School Negotiation Committee. Five MTA bargaining units will negotiate for new contracts in the coming fall and each town should have representation. The 1st organizational meeting will be Tuesday, August 14th at 8 am in VH at the Superintendent's office. The letter expressed concerns that the last round of negotiations had great difficulty in getting quorums. Adam said he'd put out the request on the Town Website and the community e-mail to see if someone in the community would volunteer. He said he'd check to see what Roxanne's status is with regards to this committee.

-Spencer said if all else fails, he'll volunteer.

-Next on the agenda was the reappointments for Angela Waldron as Animal Control Officer and Margie Spitz to the Town Accountant's position. Adam reported that the performance evaluations that had not been mutually agreed upon by him and the two employees have now been worked out so the appointments can go forward. Adam told the Board that the appointment for Town Accountant needs to be 3 years according to State Statute. There was discussion about the appointment made last year for Town Accountant being only one year and Adam saying that this time around it should be for three years. There was discussion about other positions being reappointed for more than one year.

-Adam talked about the offer of having the Town Accountant being a salaried position for one year while the job's functions were reviewed. He said it would be better to withdraw that offer and simply appoint Margie for 3 years. There was discussion about the comp time Margie had accrued in the last fiscal year. Jim said, "that the bottom line is she can no longer get comp time unless it's been preapproved." Adam said there is correspondence in place that alerts Margie to the fact she cannot put in for any comp time in the new fiscal year. He won't sign any time sheets showing comp time. He also said the issue of comp time accrued but not used up from last fiscal year remains unresolved.

-Beverly made a motion to reappoint Angela Waldron as ACO until June 30th, 2013. Jim seconded.

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

Jim made a motion to reappoint Marjorie Spitz as Town Accountant until June 30th, 2015. Beverly seconded. In the discussion Jim wants the appointment to come with a provision that Margie signs off on the Town Accountant job description that was approved by the Personnel Committee June 20th. It states the position has specific dates when reports are due. Jim wants Margie to formally acknowledge that the position's description requires the schedule A is done October 30th and the free cash report is certified no later than November 15th. If she doesn't sign off on that then he'll rescind the reappointment. Spencer asked why no one else has to sign off on their job description. The Board talked about referring job description sign offs by town employees to the Personnel Committee. Beverly agreed with Jim that Margie's signature on the accountant's JD is a necessary step in her reappointment.

Jim amended his main motion that Margie be reappointed on the condition that she sign off on the job description that has been approved by the Personnel Committee. Beverly seconded.

Jim and Beverly voted in favor of the amendment. Spencer voted against. The motion passed.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor of the main motion. The motion passed.

-Beverly asked that the Personnel Committee take up the issue of everyone signing off on their Job Descriptions.

-Next on the agenda was the Town Administrator's report.

- Adam reported that the windows in Town Hall still haven't been fixed. He is back and forth with Pella and Marvin windows.
- The DAS system is up and running. He said it supplements the existing macro coverage and has AT&T as the only provider on board but more providers should sign on. If that happens there can be more nodes installed to increase service.
- There is new language in the CPA statute that will open up more projects for open space & recreation.
- A new hire is in place. Sibel Suman has taken on the Community Review Board Administrative Assistant position and is already working with the Planning Board and their current review projects.
- The new fire alarm system for Town Hall is being installed by Alarm New England
- A thank you letter was drafted to Bret Stearns thanking him and members of the Natural Resources Department at the Tribe for their help during the lobster boat grounding off Squibnocket Point. Spencer read it and signed it. Jim asked if Remy can have a copy for the newspapers to perhaps publish.
- Adam said he'd also memo Jay Smalley and Bill Smith for their work representing the AQ FD during the incident as well.
- The next meeting will be the summer resident's meeting with the Board. It will occur Tuesday, August 7th in the Old Town Hall. He said it will be follow up to a brain storming session for Town employees to suggest ideas for future planning and to establish a capital planning committee.

-There was discussion about fixing the windows instead of replacing them. Spencer asked about the Menemsha leases. Adam reported that two more have been handed in. Jim asked if the insurance statements came with them. Adam said Camille Rose's did not.

The Board, by consensus, did not sign the Rose lease until the certificate of liability insurance is presented with the lease document.

-There was discussion about document storage at the airport. Adam and Beverly talked about what documents can be thrown away after a number of years and who at the state level gets notified about document destruction.

-Beverly brought up the public road situation at the Cliffs. The Assessor's map of the Cliff area was looked at. Adam showed that the road leading up to the Aquinnah shop is a town road. The subject of the road being used between 10 – 4 pm was discussed. Adam said there's a clause in the shop leases that deliveries can't occur during that time. Other use would be a matter more to do with public safety. Beverly said the issue is liability, if an accident occurs when the road is technically closed leaves the Town potentially liable. There was discussion about closing a Town road for public safety reasons. Beverly said she'd speak to Randhi about the issue and what his take is on how the road can be made safe.

-Bev Evans asked about the old parking lots that existed at the cliffs. Board Members said the lots today are for Aquinnah shop employees.

Jim made a motion to adjourn. Beverly seconded.

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

The meeting ended at 6:00 pm.