

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 9/18/2012
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Vice Chairman Beverly Wright, Jim Newman

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Town Accountant Marjorie Spitz, Sgt Paul Manning, Town Moderator Mike Hebert, Cliff Shop Owners Berta Welch, Carla Chuch, Adrienne Ignacio & Martha Vanderhoop

The meeting began at 5:40 pm

-Under Old Business was a review of the minutes from 9 – 4. Beverly asked that they not be accepted until Adam has had the chance to revise Fire Chief Simon Bollin's remarks regarding an incident in which he was asked to leave Tribal grounds while conducting an inspection of the reserve water tanks held there. Adam said he would add to the minutes what was said and pass them along for further review.

-There was discussion about the scheduling of the Town-Tribe Safety Agreement Meeting and if it could occur sooner than next year and what is in the agreement affecting the town's fire department. Adam said it would be good if Simon could indicate what he's proposing be added to the agreement prior to him writing a letter to tribal administration requesting a meeting. He said he would talk to Simon and then write the letter.

-1st on the agenda was a meeting with the cliff shop owners to discuss issues that can be resolved before the start of the next summer season. Beverly asked about notification. Adam said all shop owners were sent letters in addition to tribal administration. Berta Welch asked about recycling and how much trash is taken away from the cliff area. She said there are certain types of receptacles that promote recycling only and not for general trash and the town should purchase them. She wants to know what it costs to take away the trash for the season and how much it costs to run the restrooms and how much money does the parking lot make. There was discussion of who in Town Hall can answer those questions. She wants to know what if down the road there can be a composting restrooms facility and if grants can be used to build it. There was discussion about the different types of grants available.

Carla asked if the town could provide attractive picnic tables. There was discussion about what was currently in the area. Beverly asked if there can be picnic tables in the circle. Mike Hebert talked about the cost being \$200 a piece but tables that use pvc decking cost more and last longer.

-Berta raised a concern that the trash receptacles are overflowing by 5:00 pm. There was discussion about having more receptacles, including one up by the lookout area.

-The question was raised about why the restaurants are not providing more receptacles and the location of the ones they do have. There was discussion about where people are picnicking.

-Beverly asked Margie if she could provide the numbers for trash collection at the cliffs. She replied that Jay would have the numbers of trips to the dump he does during the season but they are most likely part of a larger run he does for the whole town.

-There was discussion about the other organizations that don't do a good enough job hauling away the trash from their locations. Adam said if Jay sees that the receptacles at the bus stop and Land Bank Beach entrance are overflowing, he will put it in his truck as part of his dump run. The group talked about having more receptacles, better signage of receptacle locations and an insistence that if there is take out, an appropriate amount of trash cans accommodate those who throw away after eating.

- There was discussion about trash being hauled away at lunch time and how it is taken through the area because of the no delivery times in the middle of the day.

-There was discussion about Faith's Seafood Shack leaving garbage overnight. The group talked about what is written in the lease about refuse removal and no trash being left overnight. Jim said if it is true that the Shack is violating the terms of the lease and leaving trash overnight in one of its large containers, a letter is to be written.

-Martha asked that the time expanded for parking at the circle go to 1.5 hours. She said that because of the Lighthouse being open all the time and the popularity of the cultural center, more time is needed to park.

There was discussion about having more spaces as well and if parking expansion could trigger MVC review because the area is a designated DCPC. Adam said there should be a comprehensive plan of what parking already exists and the feasibility of adding parking and the effect of doing such to the aesthetics of the circle.

-Paul said there needs to be an avoidance of putting cars on the grass. The Board discussed different parking times for different activities. There was discussion about the resident parking at the bottom of the hill and who is parking there. Everyone agreed that there is not enough information given out that the pay lot has cheaper rates for parking short term.

-Martha asked if there can be a directional signage dealing with the different ways one can go from the bathroom area. Beverly said it should be a "you are here" sign. She hoped that before next year these requests would be put in place. Paul asked if there could be a committee formed to deal with beautification.

-Margie talked about money put aside that has yet to be used for engineering studies to deal with water runoff and the erosion of the path down to the bathrooms. Adam will get an update on what CPA monies are still available for the cliff area.

-Landscaping at the top of the cliffs and the poison ivy issue was discussed. Jim said it's on tribal lands. Beverly asked Adam to write a letter to Cheryl asking if their natural resources department could prepare a plan for poison ivy removal up at the cliff head.

-There was discussion about the informational kiosk that the Tribe intends to put up. Jim said it may happen next spring now that it's gotten the necessary permits from the Planning Board.

-Jim said there should be an action list put together so that there's follow up to everything talked about at this meeting. He'd like to see a March "to do" list.

-There was discussion about where the trash all comes from and who generates the largest percentage.

-Berta talked about the erosion of the driveway that goes to the ACC and how the Land Bank should also be responsible for its maintenance since their parking area is off the driveway. Mike said the top of the road may still be town property that in spite of people using to get to the LB parking area, is still ours to maintain.

The group talked about the trail to the bathrooms and the water runoff problem. Mike said a solution might be "turf stone" that allows grass to go through it. He said it would be a solid surface with grass underneath to slow the water flow.

-There was discussion about the bathroom operation, Priscilla's job and the signage about user fees. Many in the room expressed disdain for having to charge for restroom usage. Jim said there's a need for the town to make revenue to sustain the operation.

-Beverly said the roadway for deliveries needs an updated sign on when deliveries can be made.

-A review of what was discussed and what would be worked on was reviewed. The Board said they would do the following:

1. Work on overall better informational signage;
2. Increase the time to 1.5 hours;
3. Possible increase in # of parking spaces;
4. Enforcement of trash removal by all those responsible and;
5. Enforcement of town road usage.

-Next on the agenda was a review for the Town Special Meeting. It was agreed that the Selectmen will meet on October 30th to sign off on the warrant. Adam said he'd work on the dates for last day to submit articles for the

warrant from the department heads, when Town Counsel will get the chance to review and when advertising in the paper will occur.

-Next on the agenda was Margie's report to recommend hiring Heidi Vanderhoop as the new Accountant's Assistant. She said she had 23 applications and 13 interviews. She showed Adam a list of 5 finalists and was helped in creating a scoring system to decide the final hire. Margie said Heidi can start at the beginning of October. Jim made a motion to hire Heidi Vanderhoop for the part time Accountant's Assistance Position. Beverly seconded.

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

In the Town Administrator's Report there was a request from Mike to be appointed to the Aquinnah Affordable Housing Committee. Mike said his wife Eleanor wants to go off of it which leaves only 4 members and it's too important a board to lack representation. There are still two vacancies as well. Beverly asked Adam that it be advertised on the web site there are still two vacancies for this committee.

Jim made a motion to appoint Mike Hebert to the Aquinnah Affordable Housing Committee. Beverly seconded.

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

-There was discussion about how long the appointment would be. Adam said the committee gets annually reappointed at the end of June.

-Beverly read the letter from Elise LeBovit asking to meet with the board over the issue of moving the Gay Head Lighthouse. The letter said there is a group of people who have been negotiating purchasing land in order to move the structure. She asks for a meeting with the Board to discuss the matter.

By consensus the Board agreed to meet with her and her group at the October 2nd meeting. Adam said he'd follow up notifying Elise the Board's desire to meet.

-Mike gave a brief update of what Cape Light Compact is doing with energy savings for the town residents.

Jim made a motion to adjourn. Beverly seconded.

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

The meeting ended at 7:00 pm