

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 1/22/2013
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Spencer Booker, Chairman, Jim Newman, Beverly Wright,
Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Jamie Vanderhoop, Theresa Manning, Chief Randhi Belain, Sgt Paul Manning, Wendy Swolinzky, Vern Welch, Jimmy San Fillippo, Barbara Bassett, Moderator Mike Hebert, June Manning, and Town Accountant Margie Spitz.

-The meeting began at 5:05 pm

-1st on the agenda under old business was a review of minutes from the 1- 8 Selectmen's meeting.

-Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from January 8th. Beverly seconded.

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

-Next under old business was a revisit of the proposal from Wendy to have her switch the current Menemsha lot she leases (Lot B) and take over the lot being vacated by Camille Rose (Lot A). With the change, Lot A's water frontage would increase to 70' and Lot B's would be reduced to 35'. Spencer stated he was in favor of the change and just moving the lot lines. Beverly said she just doesn't want a state agency saying down the road they couldn't make these changes. Wendy said the current site plan was drawn up by Hugh (Taylor) and only the lot owned by Alfred Vanderhoop had been on the original site plan.

There was discussion about the Board's decision not to renew Camille's lease, which was for one year, expiring June 30th of this year and the existing shed being sold to Wendy. The lot created would become available to the 1st person on the waiting list. Jim said that was Brian (Vanderhoop), followed by Vern.

-Jim made a motion to move the lot line so that Lot B is reduced to 35 feet and increase Lot A to be 69.9 feet. Beverly seconded. There was discussion about notifying Chip about Lot B's availability. Jimmy asked about the commercial fishing license requirement to have one of the lots.

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

-Beverly made a motion that as of July 1st, 2013, the town will enter into a new lease agreement for Wendy to have Lot A. Jim seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda under new business was a meeting with the Youth Task Force representatives Theresa and Jamie. Theresa gave a hand out that detailed the guidelines the Department of Public Health has initiated for the allowance of medical marijuana dispensaries. She said the legislation is written that allows for up to five dispensaries in each commonwealth county. She is seeking for all towns on the island the idea of having some precautionary measures so that when someone shows they have a state license allowing for a dispensary, the towns are prepared to deal with it. In some cases an island town can go the zoning route of just being able to say "no", or to make allowances through community review and special permitting. There was discussion about a dispensary being allowed in Aquinnah as a home based business. Two licenses are allowed: growing and selling. She said the main concern of the YTF is kids and access to drugs.

-There was discussion about how one goes about getting the drug through medical prescription. She said because marijuana is still a federal banned substance, the owner has to be non-profit, and can only deal in cash since banks are not allowed to loan to these types of businesses, set up accounts and allow for credit card sales.

-Theresa said there are already people in other towns that are on top of this and are working to get a dispensary license. She gave the Board a short history of research done showing the negative effects marijuana has on different age groups and genders.

-Theresa suggested a public consumption by-law perhaps as a tool for regulating the use. Jamie said right now the Dept of Public Health has been given a 120 day window to develop rules and regulations beginning Jan 1st. There was discussion about other towns taking action to ban the dispensaries completely and others engaging in a moratorium for a period of time to look at the DPH regulations when they do come out and decide if their guidelines are acceptable enough for the Town to engage itself in dispensary licensing.

-Jim said he'd support a moratorium, perhaps for six months. Adam said he'd talk to both the Town Clerk and Counsel on getting a moratorium question in place for the town meeting. Julie said there is already training to show people how to get this type of business started. Theresa said there's lots of different ways to sell cannabis. Products can come in many different forms and products. In states where the sale has been for varied uses, there are lots of ways to inhale or ingest to drug.

-Jim said he wants to have Jamie and Theresa as advisors to the Town as to how to proceed. There was discussion about whether or not there really is a benefit in pot smoking for medical use.

-Theresa said there are plans for them to meet with the all-island selectmen in February. She said YTF is aligned with MAPPA to establish regulations with towns now that legislation has passed allowing these types of dispensaries. Prevention groups such as YTF have been working hard since the decriminalization of pot back in '08. Theresa said that the unfortunate thing about his change in law is that no money is budgeted to see to the oversight of the change. It's a concern when a new rule goes into effect but there is no funding that should be a part of the implementation. The Board thanked Theresa and Jamie for filling them in about the issue and actions the town can take to deal with the issue.

-Next on the agenda was a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to have all employees sign off on their job descriptions (JD's). Adam reported that the committee has been working for months to update all employees JD's and have interviewed almost everyone on staff to make sure everyone's JD is current. Signing off on the job description is an acknowledgement that the job responsibilities and essential functions are accurate to each person's job.

Beverly made a motion for the Board to adopt a policy that all employees' sign off on their approved job descriptions. Jim seconded.

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

There was a discussion about the difference in job performance and how it is evaluated versus job accountability and how one's responsibilities are spelled out in a JD.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the proposed project to fund from Community Preservation Committee's undesignated reserve fund, \$5K for the Lighthouse Committee to do feasibility work. The CPC have a warrant article on the Town's second special town meeting February 5th to fund for a feasibility study. Adam stated the CPC needed a project proposal so he drafted one for the Selectmen to endorse before the CPC can vote on it.

Beverly made a motion to endorse the Gay Head Lighthouse Committee CPC Project for \$5K. Jim seconded.

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

Beverly asked if there will be a BOS meeting on the 5th in addition to the two town meetings. Adam said there'll be one since the Lighthouse Committee is slated to meet with them. Jim said that the BOS, acting as the FinCom, wants to meet as well. Jim said he also wants to meet with the Finance Team.

-Next on the agenda was the appointment of a selectperson to the Tri-Town Committee.

Spencer made a motion to reappoint Jim for another year. Beverly seconded.

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

-Jim talked about the local rep to the Land Bank. Adam said that Megan Ottens-Sargeant has indicated she would volunteer as the local rep. Jim said he's been on the advisory committee for the last ten years.
Adam said he'd put the issue on the 2-5 agenda.

-In the Town Administrator's report, Adam stated that the reason MVTV was not recording tonight's meeting was because of a heavy schedule of events they were obligated to produce and that the town's regular videographer, Joanie Ames, was still recovering from the flu and they weren't able to find a replacement.

-Adam went over the budget/town report calendar. He said the difference this year is that town meeting isn't until the 14th of May, so there's more time to get everything reviewed.

-Adam had the Board sign off on the MS Bike-a-Thon in May.

-Spencer asked if any Board Member had any other business to discuss. Hearing none...

Beverly made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded.

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

The meeting ended at 6:05 pm.