

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 10/01/2013
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Conservation Commission Chairman Sarah Thulin, Sgt Paul Manning, Chief Randhi Belain

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm.

-1st on the agenda under old business was a review of minutes from 9/17.

Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes of September 17th as presented. Jim seconded.

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

-1st agenda item was a meeting with Sarah Thulin to hear her report following up a request from the BOS to the ConCom to investigate the idea of the town acquiring land parcels adjacent to the Philbin Beach parking lot in order to expand parking for the beach. Sarah reported that she had conducted a site visit with PBPRC Chairman Peter Temple to look at the property. She said the 7 Families group had hired engineer C. Alley to stake out the land so they could get an understanding of what was where and what could possibly be acquired. She said it looks possible that there could be more cars parked on that property. She said she wants to see if there could be a plan generated to maximize the amount of current space for parking in the Philbin Lot. The additional lot could provide additional parking for the town. There was discussion about having 3 reserved parking spaces for the families in exchange for the land. Sarah pointed out that 25' of the beach path used by residents and guests to get to the beach is on Houghton/Lake land. She said the property actually is on an angle and the beach path goes on their land. If there was to be a gift of land then there can be more space for vehicles since it appears dry and lacking protected vegetation. More research would have to be done.

Beverly asked if this might involve another curb cut off of Moshup's trail. There was discussion about how the zoning and DCPC regulations limit the number of access points off Moshup's trail. There was discussion about the total # of extra cars that could go in the new lot without a curb cut and how hidden from the road they would be. The adjacent lot may be a little more visible and might need some additional landscaping. There was discussion about how the town should acquire the property regardless of parking situation because it's land the town is currently utilizing that belongs to someone else. There was discussion about the possibility of moving the current path to eliminate the trespass situation. Sarah said the grade of the two lots is similar as well. There was discussion about who would pay for what part of the development if it were to occur.

Next on the agenda was a review of the current lease arrangements MV Museum has with the Aquinnah and Edgartown Lighthouse. The Board took under its own advisement a continuation of the plan for a new lease with the museum to coincide with the acquisition of the lighthouse from the Coast Guard.

The next agenda item was an e-mail from Jay These requesting to be appointed to the Save the Gay Head Lighthouse Committee. Jim asked that the request go 1st to that committee and then, if recommended, brought back to the Selectmen for appointment. The Board, by consensus, agreed.

Next agenda item was the agreement for trademark logo representation by the Chicago firm of DrinkerBiddle & Reath. The Board, by consensus, agreed to have the law firm represent the town pro bono to protect the town's save the lighthouse project logo. Beverly signed the letter of agreement.

-In other Selectmen's Business, Jim showed Spencer and Beverly a copy of a memo dated March 14th from Accountant Margie Spitz on her plans for retirement in February. Jim said the memo proposes a plan to have her slowly reduce her role as the accountant while giving more hours to Heidi (Vanderhoop, the accounting clerk), until she is ready to assume the full time position. Jim said the Board has never approved this proposed plan and has

concerns about Heidi being qualified to take the position on in the time frame proposed. Jim said the personnel committee should review this plan and make a recommendation to the Selectmen whether or not this is acceptable or whether there should be an action plan to interview for the accountant's position as well. Jim and Spencer both agreed that the position needs to be advertised.

-Beverly read the memo. There was discussion on how much training Heidi has received so far. By consensus the Board agreed to pass the proposal on to the Personnel Committee for further review and to get a recommendation if the proposed plan is in the best interest of the department and what, if any, other actions might be considered as well.

-Beverly asked that there be a warrant article for the 11-5 STM to purchase some additional picnic tables and benches for the circle and have the funds come from free cash. By consensus, the Board agreed.

-Adam showed the Board a petition brought in by Betty Joslow to add to the bottle redemption bill returns for water, sports and tea bottles. He said he'd leave it at the front desk for people to sign.

-Jim brought up the decision on what to do with the police's black charger with the new vehicle coming on board in the next week. Adam said he has researched the numbers on putting in the Palmer Lot as a town car and although the costs would be close the same as people just using their own cars to get on and off island, It would give employees a lot more flexibility in traveling and be better for the town from a liability point of view. He still needed to check on the permit cost and have a logo done on the side of the car.

By consensus, the Selectmen approved making the 2007 Dodge Charger a town use car in the Palmer Lot.

-Beverly reminded everyone the 10K Road Race is Sunday, October 6th @ 10:00 am

-Beverly asked if there was anything else to report. Hearing none...

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

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

The meeting ended at 6:05 pm.