

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 7/16/2013
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Vern Welch, Len Butler, Wendy Swolinzky, Hugh Taylor, Barbara Bassett, Town Accountant Marjorie Spitz, Giles Welch, Sonia Welch, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Beverly Evans, Ellen Harrison, Berta Welch, Tri-Town Chief Paul Wilkins

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

-Under Old Business there was a review of the minutes from 6-26 and 7-2.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from June 26th. Spencer seconded.

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

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from July 2nd. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 – 1 in favor. The motion passed.

-Len Butler gave a report from the lighthouse building subcommittee. He said there is now an additional site to consider in moving the lighthouse. He also said that with this alternative there is no need to consider any longer a site in the circle. His committee voted to recommend the circle site be eliminated from consideration for the time being. There was always the problem about the loss of elevation in moving the lighthouse to the circle area and that if it was to go there, it wouldn't remain active. So three sites are now in the mix: Site 1 on Map 6, Lot 23; Site 2, the Manning property and Site 3, Town owned Map 6, lot 20

-Len said he's talked with Island Source well driller John Clarke who, with Patrick Williams, needs to identify where the ground water intrusion is in relation to the cliffs and the ultimate effect it's having on erosion and break out on the face of the cliffs. John has drilled wells up there and wants to drill another hole to the main aquifer which is 200' below the sea level to relieve the water erosion. He believes there is ground water collection at 25 and 50' which if drilled through to the main aquifer, will by gravity drain out. John will do it for cost. A couple of thousand dollars at most which can be paid for through CPC funds. Len wants permission to go forward with this idea and recommend it for the fall. Len said a recent meeting with Byron Stone with the US Geological Survey Team has produced a request from him to be part of the research when this aquifer hole is drilled. He would sign on as part of his own federal project of geologically mapping New England so that the town would get an additional consultant for the lighthouse move at no cost.

-Beverly read a letter for Len asking for a 3' wide 400' path to be cut to do more surveying of the new site location. He showed the board a picture of where the brush cutting would occur on town property.

-The Board moved onto the request from Derrill Bazy of the CPC to purchase Map 6, Lot 23. It was discussed that the CPC has the funds to make the purchase if the sale ends up being \$20k or less.

Jim made a motion to have the CPC engage in the process of purchasing Map 6, Lot 23. Spencer seconded.

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

Jim motioned to approve the other recommendations to eliminate the circle as a potential lighthouse site move, hire John Clarke to do the well drill and have DPW Director Jay Smalley cut a path to the new site location on Map 6, Lot 20. Spencer seconded.

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

-Beverly gave a quick update that the lighthouse fundraising committee has acquired \$180K so far in pledges and that there will be a 10K road race to support the lighthouse move cause Sunday, October 6th. She said the race is planned to run each year and eventually used for the overall maintenance of the lighthouse.

-Next on the agenda was the meeting with Vern and lot A. He said he had several questions regarding the structures on the lot. He asked what can be done about certain building code violations regarding railings needed if there was a 30" drop from the structure to the ground.

The Board responded that it was a matter to be taken up with the Building Inspector and whatever permits needed by him and/or the Planning Board.

-Wendy stated that Vern has no right to do any improvements to the shed, dock or pilings; her bill of sale shows that she owns all of it. She also asked about the status of the letter she wrote to the Board July 8th clarifying the status of her property. Beverly said an answer from the Town's lawyer is forthcoming.

-There was discussion about the purchase of the shed. Jim asked why there are two prices involved in the purchase of the shed. Wendy said she's paid a \$100 binder but the price of the agreement is different.

-Vern asked if he can fix a hole in the road that is by his lot. There was discussion whether the road maintenance is Aquinnah's or Chilmark's. Spencer didn't think Vern should do anything until all questions about the lot and the structure on it, which is in two towns, has been answered. There was discussion about the part of the road being in Chilmark and who does maintenance.

-Vern asked Wendy if she would sell the dock and spiels for \$500. Wendy turned down the offer, saying it's not enough. Giles added that the request for improvements is only to cover liability issues.

Spencer and Adam talked about how Chilmark has maintained the road that is in Aquinnah, but more towards Hugh's lot and not the other end.

-Wendy asked the Board to recognize her ownership of the shed and dock and that no more work will be done to it. There was discussion about the Building Inspector, Jerry Wiener, instructing Vern not to do anymore work on the shed's handrails. There was discussion what the lease says and the ownership of property on Lot A as of June 30th. Berta opined that until payment is complete, Camille still owns the building. Beverly said there was a draft letter responding to Wendy's July 8th letter coming soon.

-Barbara Bassett and Board Members talked about the potential lawsuit the town may incur as a result of decisions made regarding the awarding of Lot A to Vern.

-Hugh talked about how Lots A & F were left alone in laying out the site plan and the focus was only on those lots that were completely in Aquinnah. He said Lot B originally went all the way through to Alfred's lot. He said the 112' that is lot A today is not really part of the solid ground that is Aquinnah.

-Next on the agenda was the '65 language about the lots being reserved and made available for commercial fishermen. Hugh said his Bike ferry was already in operation. He said there shouldn't be a use restriction. The Town should decide who can use the lots for what purpose. Beverly said all lease lot holders should have commercial fishing licenses. That way the Town is covered under the conveying language of the lots. Hugh agreed. There was consensus from Board Members that all Menemsha lease lot holders should have in possession a commercial fishing license.

Adam to write to all lease holders to produce those current documents.

-Next on the agenda was a letter from Walter Delaney announcing his resignation from the Conservation Commission. Board Members, by consensus, accepted Walter's resignation.

-Next on the agenda was a request from the Animal Control Officer to be included in the Town's health care program. The Board referred the matter to the Personnel Committee. Beverly announced that Walter's wife, Nancy, had passed away and that flowers from the Board were being sent.

-Next on the agenda was further discussion about the CPR LUCAS machine loan agreement with the Tribe. Beverly said the Tribe's Lawyer Echohawk will be on island Thursday or Friday and to hold off signing the loan agreement until Ron Rappaport has the chance to consult with her. Beverly pointed out further issues with the agreement that needed further clarification or editing. She questioned the liability issue when the equipment becomes a part of Tri-Town.

-In Selectmen's Other Business, Chief Bollin reported that the reserve water tank up at the circle still is not working and if they can't find the leak, the tank may have to be replaced.

-Beverly recognized resident John Ketchum. He came to the board to ask if there can be a way to build a future dock off of the Town's existing docks and the Menemsha channel. He would create a company that would have investors that would build the dock and do the dredging, and then when everything is repaid donate it to the town and the Tribe. He said he's talked to the Harbormaster and he's on board with the plan. Jim said it would have great payback down the road. There was discussion about public use of the dock. John said there can be 3 year bidding for space on the dock. John agreed and handed over preliminary plans.

In Selectmen's other business, Margie told the Board that the t-shirts sales are in great demand, forcing more to be made. The expense is being paid out of the gift fund, which conflicts with the web site mission statement that all money raised is going towards the lighthouse move. She wanted the Selectmen to recommend modifying the statements made on the web site to reflect that there are a variety of different expenses, all to benefit saving the Gay Head Lighthouse

Jim made a motion that the money raised can be used for further fundraising measures. Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 – 1 in favor. The motion passed.

-Jim told Randhi that he has seen effort made to ticket people who are parking illegally. He complimented Officer Balboni for his diligence in doing his job.

-Adam had a letter from Sibel Suman requesting appointment to the Conservation Commission.

Spencer made a motion to appoint Sibel Suman to the ConCom. Jim seconded.

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

-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 7:00 pm.