

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 9/17/2013
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, MV Museum Director David Nathans, Museum Finance Director Betsey Mayhew, MVC Economic Coordinator Christine Flynn, Len Butler, Meg Bodnar

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

-1st on the agenda under old business was a review of minutes from 9/3.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes of September 3rd as presented. Beverly seconded.

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

-1st item under new business was a meeting with MV Museum officials. Beverly stated that the reason for the meeting was to begin to discuss the management plan that will be part of the National Park Service application to acquire the lighthouse. David said that the MVM has already done this type of planning for the Edgartown Lighthouse when it went out for public acquisition. Betsey handed in a draft management plan that showed the types of different information the application will be looking for. There was discussion about what could be used for both management and operating plans similar to the current plans the MVM has with the Coast Guard. There was discussion about how a new lease will work for both parties and the strategy regarding ongoing maintenance of the structure. Betsey described the arrangement the MVM already has with Edgartown as far as regular maintenance and what the Edgartown Community Preservation Committee pays for in historic preservation.

-Len spoke about the possibility of having to do an RFP if there is a new lease agreement. There was discussion about the utility bills and who pays for them. David was of the opinion that there won't be any need to go out to bid if the lease is transferred from the USCG to Aquinnah. There was discussion about the amount of revenue the Museum receives from the lighthouse and when there were more weddings to collect from opposed to being open on a more regular basis. There was discussion on the maintenance costs for both the EDG and AQ lighthouses as well as the restorative work for both structures.

Next on the agenda was a report from Lenny about the RFP for the geotechnical report. He said 4 applicants showed up for the pre-proposal meeting. The award will be made by the 15th of October.

-Len said he's filed an application with the PBPRC and ConCom for the permit needed for the drillings of the 3 proposed sites and paths to them. He's also getting the town in front of the ConCom as well for non-erosion assurances. He talked about getting Mass Historic approvals for the archeological evidence showing no lack of features so that the project can go forward.

Len said there will be a need for an RFP for the engineering pre-move and move. His committee's recommendation is to have special counsel in preparing that request for proposals. A recommendation from Town Counsel suggests Walter McCabe from Ropes & Gray in Boston be that counsel.

Jim Motioned to retain this counsel. Spencer seconded.

There was discussion about when in the timeline he would be needed

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

-Next on the agenda was a report given by Adam and Christine Flynn from the Commission on the results of the housing needs assessment study. Adam reported that as chair of the committee, he worked with reps from all island towns since May of 2012 to develop the study utilizing a well-known consultant, Karen Sunnarborg, to help complete the 3 part report. The study reports that different age groups, seniors and young people, are in most need of affordable housing today and that there should be a shift in action towards community housing by developing more rentals rather than ownership opportunities.

-In Selectmen's Other Business, Beverly reported that the Lighthouse Fundraising Subcommittee recommended that Mitzi Pratt become co-chair of the committee along with Meg Bodnar.

Jim made a motion to appoint Mitzi Pratt as co-chair of the Gay Head Lighthouse fundraising Subcommittee. Spencer seconded.

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

-The Board discussed follow-up to the last meeting's proposal by 7 Families to acquire their lot for additional Parking at Philbin. Adam said he had drafted a Board to Board letter from the BOS to the ConCom and was planning on sending it as soon as he had the Selectmen's approval.

Beverly asked Adam to have Jay (Smalley, DPW Director), look into bathroom tiling at the homestead and for an update as to when the Town Hall front doors will be replaced...

-Beverly reported that the Save the Gay Head Lighthouse logo was going to be trademarked and that Aquinnah/Gay Head Community Association President Larry Hohlt was making arrangements to have it being done for no cost to the town.

-Adam disclosed that he had a site visit with Engineer George Sourati for the Aquinnah Circle pathway. George recommends a \$5K engineering study to determine an engineered landscape plan to remediate the water run off problem going down to the restrooms. There was discussion on whether to have a warrant article on the 11/5 STM for the study and if the funds would come from free cash or perhaps CPC out of open space/recreation.

-The Board took up the appointment of Jim Wallin to the Planning Board, replacing Jed Smith, who had resigned.

Jim made a motion to appoint Jim Wallin to the Planning Board/Planning Board Plan Review Committee until such time that the position is voted upon at the next annual election. Spencer seconded.

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

-Adam showed Board Members from American Tower updating the DAS system and the new nodes going up as a result of Verizon being added to the network.

-Beverly asked that the Board agree to have part of the road up at the circle painted for a start/finish line for the 10K road race. She said eventually the paint will wash away and cause no environmental pollution. By consensus the Selectmen agreed to have a start/finish paint line for the 10/6 10K Road Race.

-Adam brought up the proposal from Phil & Liz Weinstein to purchase abutting town property. There was discussion about the \$300K offer for the land. Jim pointed out that it will take another vote of the towns people to accept that price because back in 2008, the town agreed to sell, but for \$600K. There was an attempt to sell at a reduced price at a later town meeting but it didn't pass. Board members talked about the possibility of a sale at \$400K and all the proceeds going towards the lighthouse fund.

Adam was asked to write a letter stating that the Selectmen don't wish to pursue the \$300K offer at the present time with the voters.

-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 6:25 pm.