

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 11/18/2014  
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Chairman Jim Newman, Julianne Vanderhoop, Spencer Booker

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson; Lighthouse Relocation Chairman Len Butler, Treasurer Peter Graczykowski, Megan Sargent, Gazette Reporter Alex Elvin, Barbara Bassett, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Wendy Swolinzky, Sgt Paul Manning, DPW Director Jay Smalley.

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under Old Business was a review of minutes from 11-06

-Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Julianne seconded.

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

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under New Business was a review of the lighthouse project management contract recommended by the Lighthouse Committee. Len said there has been a lengthy process to hire a project manager for the relocation. The PM job was advertised and 4 candidates applied. Pomroy & Associates came up as the 1<sup>st</sup> choice to be hired. The contract Len presented has been vetted by Town Counsel and has a “not to exceed” provision of \$60K for the services, unless further negotiated.

-There was discussion about the length of service contract. Len pointed out that the plan of action in the contract to needs to start right away, in anticipation for the move to occur between March – June.

-Spencer made a motion to approve the contract for Pomroy & Associates to be project managers for the relocation of the Lighthouse. Juli seconded.

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

Jim signed the contract.

-Next on the agenda were the Board's comments about the ocean management plan for sand mining. Juli said she had attended the MVC meeting reviewing the management plan from the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs and talked about the different places being proposed for sand resources. She talked about the potential disturbance the top the ocean floor could have and the test site areas being considered – one of them being in the waters north of Aquinnah in the Sound and westerly from the Cliff's North Head.

The Board discussed the opinion to be made by them. Juli was not in favor of the development of this industry off the Vineyard shoreline. Spencer said it potentially could be too disruptive to the food chain. Jim agreed that the legislature shouldn't change; Massachusetts should continue to enforce the Massachusetts Estuary Act and maintain the existing Ocean plan.

Megan said that sand mining can be permitted, if it is only in certain locations. She said that the Vineyard Sound should not be one of the 9 areas designated for mining even though it is being labeled as a “sand resource”. Federal waters also come into play with these designated areas which makes it a concern since coastal zone management is still in place to protect coastal resources only from 1,500 feet to 3 miles out from the island. If pilot projects do go forward, the goal is to prevent it from happening off of Vineyard Sound waters.

-There was discussion about one or several towns making comments in favor and could the mining project gain momentum because of it. Megan said CZM is very concerned about the idea because if it does become a federally approved project, it can occur in designated waters.

-There was discussion about seasonal fishing and the food chain and if studies can show that there are windows in which mining can occur, would it be an option. There was discussion about the ability to mine for sand but then having no control as to where the product would end up.

-There was discussion about local offshore wind energy areas in Dukes County also in the Ocean Management Plan. Board members agreed that issue should also be commented upon to both the MVC and CZM.

By consensus, the board agreed to have Adam write a letter to the MVC commenting that sand mining in Aquinnah waters, without any studies, reports or analysis on the effect the operation has to the sea floor, is at a minimum a

threat to commercial fishing and should not be allowed. Adam will also send the letter to the EOEEA and post it on the web site.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Peter and the change in the job description as Treasurer/Benefits Administrator to Treasurer/Human Resources Director. The recommendation coming from the Personnel Committee was to increase the hours by 5 to cover the increase in responsibilities and change the pay classification to a grade 8. Peter said the Human Resources Director is an additional job that will take up 30% of his time. Peter was asked about the additional assignments. There was discussion about the additional pay per week and temporarily adjust the wage until such a time at next year's annual town meeting where the classification adjustment can be voted on by town voters. There was discussion on the numerous jobs being filled by various employees in the town and the advantage the town has in not having to have additional hires that cost more to the town by providing insurance benefits.

-Spencer made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Personnel Committee to increase the job responsibilities and pay scale for the Treasurer – changing the job title to Treasurer/Human Resources Director. Juli seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was the reappointment of Jerry Weiner as Building Inspector. Jim noted that the Board was trying to have it so that all re-appointments, whether for department personnel or committees, should all occur in the month of June.

Juli made a motion to reappoint Jerry Weiner as the Town's Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcement Officer until June 30, 2015, Spencer seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was the reappointment of Derrill Bazy to the Affordable Housing Committee.

Juli made a motion to appoint Derrill Bazy to the Aquinnah Affordable Housing Committee until June 30, 2015, Spencer seconded.

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

In Other Business Adam reported that the Shellfish Committee has voted to close Menemsha Pond to commercial and family scalloping as of Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm. He said there will be reseeding of 1 million scallops in the water for the next year.

-Juli talked about a recent trip to Nantucket to observe the scallop industry there and having information for a grant writer who has had success in propagating eel grass to bring back the shellfish in the pond.

-There was discussion about Chilmark having a good harvest this year in Quitsa. There was discussion about the Army Corp of Engineers holding off on the dredging of the channel. There was discussion on the extended scallop seasons in prior years having an impact on this year's harvest.

In Other Business, Jim read the thank you letter to Roxanne Ackerman for her many years of service representing the town on the Up Island Regional School Committee. He then signed the letter.

-Jim read a letter from the West Tisbury BOS thanking Chief Bollin and the AQ FD for the mutual aide given at the Keene Pit Fire.

-There was a concern that the street light on State Rd where it intersects with Church St. was out. Jay said he'd do the necessary follow up to have it fixed.

-Jim asked if there was anything else to come before the Board.

Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

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

-The meeting ended at 6:30 pm.