

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 9/01/2015
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Spencer Booker Chairman, Jim Newman, Julianne Vanderhoop
Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Gazette Reporter Alex Elvin, MVC Director Adam Turner, Elise LeBovit, Roger Howlett, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Resident Homesite Chairman Mike Hebert, Kathy Newman, Jim Pickman.

The meeting began at 5:38 pm.

-1st on the agenda under Old Business was a review of minutes from the 8/04 meeting.

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Julianne seconded.

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

-1st on the Agenda under New Business was a meeting with new MVC Director Adam Turner. He talked about his experiences on the island so far. He talked about his past work experiences. There was discussion about what he can bring to the Aquinnah Community and the ongoing relationship between the MVC and the Town. He hopes to write grants for the benefit of the different island towns. There was discussion about the wind farm issue and the negative visual impacts it has on this area. The Board thanked Adam for his visit.

-Next on the agenda was approval of the Rotary Club's Cycle Ride October 3rd.

Juli made a motion to allow the Cycle MV Bike Challenge to runs its route through Aquinnah roads and to obtain state and local permits to do so. Jim seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was the 45 State Rd. Affordable Housing Proposal from the Island Housng Trust. Mike asked that his committee get the chance to review the proposal and to weigh in on the proposal. His committee will meet this Thursday.

By consensus the Board agreed not to vote on the IHT Proposal until they hear back from the Resident Homesite Committee and its recommendations.

Next on the agenda were requests from Aquinnah residents to serve on the newly formed Lighthouse Advisory Board. Spencer read the names of those who corresponded with the board:

Len Butler, Elise LeBovit, Roger Howlett, Tom Murphy, Gary Haley and Betsey Mayhew (As representative for the MV Museum).

-Jim Pickman talked about the Tribe having a representative as well but no name having been put forward yet. There was discussion about the museum having a current short term license and will be competing for the license to operate the lighthouse as a tourist site in the coming spring.

The Board, by consensus, agreed not to appoint Betsey Mayhew as a member of the advisory board but to invite her to the meetings.

-Elise asked about conflict of interest issues for those who are paid who might serve on the committee. There was discussion about disclosure issues.

Jim made a motion to appoint all those who applied to the Advisory Board except Betsey Mayhew. Juli seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a request from Mickie and Dale Clement to utilize the bottom corner of the Overlook area September 19th and 20th to have the opportunity to introduce the public to amateur radio. Adam stated that they had done this in prior years working with Lighthouse Keeper Richard Skidmore but with space unavailable this year at the Light, the other area was requested.

Jim made a motion to approve the use of the Overlook for the amateur (Ham) radio operators from New Hampshire September 19th and 20th. Julie seconded.

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

-In Selectmen's Other Business, a letter from Steve Yaffee was read into the record by Spencer (See Attachment 1). There was discussion about the assessors being appointed and not appointed. Jim talked about another situation involving the Vineyard Conservation Society and current taxation of their conservation lands in Aquinnah.

-Spencer read M. Stutz's e-mail responding to the Yaffee letter (See Attachment 2). There was discussion about Ted Cammann's resignation from the Board of Assessors and the moderator choosing someone to fill in. Jim suggested there be a non-binding resolution at the next town meeting asking whether or not the BOA should be appointed as opposed to elected.

There was discussion about the BOS requesting a meeting of the BOA to discuss several issues. There was discussion about the BOA losing its health benefits 10 years ago and the reasons for it. Jim talked about the DOR doing a review of the assessor's office and the need to have a hired assessor.

-In Other Business, Adam reviewed with the Board the plans for the Army Corp's dredging contractor (JWay Southern), to utilize town and tribal lands for a pipeline system that will bring dredging spoils from the West Basin channel to areas of Lobsterville Beach, including primarily that part of the beach hardest hit from Hurricane Sandy. He showed them a map that detailed a pipeline system running down the length of West Basin and Lobsterville Rd towards the area where the spoils will be delivered.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to the plan.

-In Other Business Adam let the Board know that there is a final celebration meeting of the Lighthouse Committee next Tuesday at 5:30 pm at the Gay Head Light.

-In Other Business Jim brought up the problem with businesses at the cliffs subleased by the Tribe not being open or underutilized and to have a meeting with the Tribe to discuss the problem.

-Spencer 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 6:21 pm.