

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 9/20/2016  
Aquinnah Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Juli Vanderhoop, Jim Newman, Gary Haley

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Gordon Perry, Sgt. Paul Manning, Lighthouse Keeper Richard Skidmore, Gazette Reporter Alex Elvin, DPW Director Jay Smalley

The meeting began at 5:34 pm.

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under Old Business was review of the minutes from the 9/6 Selectmen meeting.

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from September 6<sup>th</sup>. Gary seconded

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

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda for New Business was the review of the Army Corp's request for a (R)ight (O)f (E)ntry from the town for the dredge project. Adam explained that this is the second ROE needed to conduct the Menemsha Pond Channel dredge being performed by the underwriting bond agency that has taken over from JWay Southern. The document is needed so that parking rights can be extended at Red Beach and West Basin for equipment during the dredge. There was discussion about advance notice being provided by the Army Corp and meetings with Town fire and police departments about safety measures that need to be taken prior to and during the dredge of the channel.

Jim made a motion to accept the ROE from the Army Corp for town property usage during the Menemsha Channel Pond Dredge. Gary seconded.

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

Juli and Adam signed the ROE.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Randhi and the suspension of resident parking at West Basin during the Striped Bass & Bluefish Derby. He has been receiving complaints that residents can't find anywhere to park late afternoons and weekends because fisherman are taking all the slots. He said two spaces should be reserved there for residents. He also got complaints of parking along the West Basin Rd. but said that should continue to be allowed as it is relieving congestion in the W. Basin parking lots.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to the plan of action.

-Next on the Agenda was a meeting with Jay to talk about a donation being made by an Aquinnah resident to repaint the front entrance deck area and handicap ramp. Adam said he sought bids from local painters and got back 4, the lowest bid being \$3,200. He explained that the resident can make a donation to the town for that amount, which the Board can accept, and then Jay can have the project paid for from the buildings & grounds budget.

Jim made a motion to accept a \$3,200 gift to the town for the purpose of repainting the front hall entrance. Gary seconded.

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

-Next on the Agenda was the awarding of a contract to fix the culvert on Lobsterville Rd. Adam talked about the application made by the Tribe's Natural Resources Department and the Town's DPW and Selectmen's Office to seek funds from federal grants for coastal environmental projects that was being offered by the Southern New England Environmental Agencies. Aquinnah was one of the recipients awarded \$276K to repair and restore the culvert that was severely damaged by Hurricane Sandy.

-In Other Business, Adam reported that because of a personal letter writing campaign, enough residents have come forward so that a Finance & Advisory Board and a Park's & Rec committee can be appointed. There was discussion about the letter Adam wrote and how well it was received and the number of volunteer's coming forward.

-In Other Business, Juli gave praise of the Housing Production Plan event that occurred in the Old Town Hall the previous evening. There was discussion from Jim and Richard about how successful it was in terms of attendance, timing and the food that was provided prior to the event.

-In Other Business, Richard talked about the opening of Lighthouse Park to the community. Adam said the ok was given by the various state and federal agencies to open the park area now that the ground had been revegetated and

no longer posed a health risk since the time it was used for the temporary storage of contaminated soil excavated during the relocation of the lighthouse. He said the Lighthouse Advisory Board wants to recommend opening the property at 8am and to close one hour after sunset. He said the gate to the lighthouse will be closed and locked off season but the park will be open. There was discussion about the metal gates that will continue to be used to secure the park area.

-Randhi said the opening and closing is already in progress with his department and has no problems tasking the oversight and operation of the park through daylight hours.

-Richard talked about the number of people that have attended weddings and how many people the place can actually hold. Jay and Richard talked about what fencing will be removed and what will stay around the Manning property.

-Adam and Richard talked about the pedestrian walkway fencing along the circle road that will be needed next year and the desire of having a telephone pole railing system next year. Simon also suggested timbers 6 X 6 or 8 X 8 like the Tribe has along its entrance road as a suitable alternative if t-poles are not available.

-In Other Business, Simon reported that Gordon Perry has passed the firefighter I course in one year. He's fully certified.

-Simon also reported the fire safety boat has a federal funding option which he's going to pursue. He's found out there is a Port Security Grant that has millions provided by Homeland Security. He hopes to secure \$100K to refurbish the boat and give it full firefighting capabilities.

-Juli 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 6:11pm