

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 9/26/2016
Aquinnah Town Hall

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

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Barbara Bassett, Marjorie Spitz, Steve Soloman, Bob (Wax) Iwaskiewicz, Sgt. Paul Manning, MV Times Editor Nelson Sigelman, DPW Director Jay Smalley

The meeting began at 5:32 pm.

-The only agenda item was a meeting with Aquinnah residents to further discuss the parking situation at West Basin and Lobsterville during the striped bass derby. Adam read a memo from Police Chief Randhi Belain (See attached).

-Juli read a letter from Nelson (See attached). Barbara talked about the history of sharing and access to the beach areas down at West Basin and Lobsterville. She said this year there has been no available parking while the derby has been on and requested that resident parking be maintained along the split rail fence in the lot area where the launch is. There was discussion about how popular derby fishing spots have become due in part to social media. There was discussion about fishing and swimming together being problematic and parking along the West Basin Road causing trespass over the dunes.

-Nelson talked about the island as a whole being open to fisherman during the derby. Wax said the dead end road and public launch makes the area “tight” in its popularity. He also said there is more fishing during the day than at night as more competition is occurring for false albacore. There was discussion about signage – covering up certain no parking signs so that fisherman can park along West Basin Rd. and/or an a-frame sign designating where free parking is and from what time (6pm – 6am). Wax said derby officials could possibly help in the development of signage for the area.

-There was discussion about boat trailer parking and how much space they take up. Adam read letters from E. Vanderhoop and J. Wightman (see attached). Jim and Margie talked about blocking specific areas so that AQ residents can have unabated access. Jay said that ultimately the ramp and boat parking area needs to be reconfigured and expansion should occur at Lobsterville parking too.

- There was discussion about more parking along West Basin Rd. Adam said Mass DOT needs to know that the “No Parking” signs will be covered up and that enough space for 8 – 10 to park cars along the road will happen. Jay said he would also let the Tribe know.

By consensus, the Board agreed to reinstate resident parking only at West Basin along the split rail fencing area and To secure more parking for fisherman along a designated section of West Basin Rd, subject to approval from Mass DOT. They also agreed that with DOT approval, signage will say, “Derby parking. Don’t walk on the dunes.”

-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