

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 1/17/2017  
Aquinnah Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Julianne Vanderhoop, Jim Newman, Gary Haley  
Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Sgt Paul Manning, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Frank Perez, Bill Chaisson, MV Times, Alex Elvin, V. Gazette, Asst. Assessor Angela Cywinski, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Elise Lebovit, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Treasurer Sibel Suman, Jay McCloud  
The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda was review of the minutes from the 12/20 meeting.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from December 20<sup>th</sup>, Gary seconded.

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

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under New Business was the street licensing request from the Oak Bluffs Land & Wharf Co. to run tour vans in Aquinnah as part of an overall sightseeing service for the island.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to take under advisement the request until a meeting could be set up with the company and the board to discuss the operational service.

-Next on the agenda was a review of new/amended job descriptions recommended by the Personnel Committee. Adam requested the review wait until he had the chance to add some additional edits to the various JD's recently suggested by PC members and the representative from the Collins Center that did the report.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to postpone the review until the next meeting.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with island biologist Dick Johnson on the proposal for a 2<sup>nd</sup> deer hunting season. He lobbied for a 2<sup>nd</sup> season to begin in January of 2018 after a review by the Division of Fish & Wildlife and the MV Commission. He talked about the Sunday ban in the current hunting season. His proposal will have 2 weeks to include 2 Saturdays. He talked about the grant he received from the hospital to do the study about the correlation between deer as hosts for tick growth. Juli asked about the search for carriers. Dick talked about the research into the Lyme disease factors and other infectious diseases like the lone star tick.

-Elise read an article from the Block Island Times that contradicts the report Dick gave. The article talked about the different hosts to Lyme. She said that another hunting season is detrimental to the community.

-Jim asked about Lyme and Lone Star ticks on Cuttyhunk. There was discussion about the coyote population on Naushon and how deer have been culled there. Dick talked about how Mohegan Island eliminated the deer population and ended the tick problem there. Jay asked about the total deer population and how many killed are making it to the weigh stations and overall accountability. Dick said there is 3 – 5,000 deer on the island. If the herd can be reduced to 17 – 20 per square mile there should be a reduction of tick borne illnesses. He said 172 deer were brought to this year's weigh stations.

-Randhi said it's another 2 weeks and not a big deal for his department. Simon said the deer are already smart enough to move to places where they know people can't hunt. He said more people from off-island will come. They were very successful in getting the deer in the state forest but they'll go to residential areas that in turn need pushing out before they can be shot. Dick said the "no hunting within 500' of a dwelling" rule takes out 18 acres for hunting around a residence. He talked about the impact tick borne illnesses have affected so many people in the island community.

- There was discussion about the BOH's efforts to also raise awareness on the animal population and how to combat the ongoing infection rate.

Jim made a motion to support the two week addition hunting season, Juli seconded.

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

There was discussion about creating a registry for hunters. Randhi talked about the rigidity of the hunting laws and how everyone in Aquinnah needs owner's permission and a copy of the owner's plot plan on their person while hunting.

-Next on the agenda were the 2 requests for legal services. The Treasurer's request was to use Coppolla & Coppolla to answer questions about tax title for the Baptist Church properties. The Building Inspector's request involved Planning Board fines for property that had violated zoning in the matter of clear cutting the property.

Jim made a motion to approve both legal counsel requests. Juli seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a proposal to join the state sponsored community compact program. Adam explained that the program is intended to create partnerships between towns and the state for "best practices" programs in which the towns would be eligible for free technical assistance and/or state implementation grants. Adam said it's important to sign up for the compact because the town was already involved in 2 qualifying programs: the HPP effort and regionalization of a civil engineer for TIPS programs sponsored by the MV Commission.

Juli made a motion to participate in the community compact program. Jim seconded.

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

-In Other Business, Jim talked about the replacement of 2 ambulances covered in Tri-Town's revolving fund. He talked about the need to put money aside in the future for the replacement of the West Tisbury Ambulance six years down the road. Juli asked about the ambulance replacement #'s and hoped to talk to members of the Tribe about participating in the ambulance renewal program. There was discussion about the usage of the service for Aquinnah. Simon said that last year the calls for Aquinnah were 10% of the total calls Tri-Town had.

-In Other Business, The Board reviewed the deferred payment agreement between the town and Eversource to bury the wires up at the Aquinnah Circle. Adam said this agreement will allow the work to be done and then paid for after completion, according to the loan borrowing the town had for the work.

Jim made a motion to approve the payment agreement with Eversource, Gary seconded.

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

-In Other Business, The Board took up the appointment of Renee Pianka as the rep to the Lighthouse Advisory Board for the Island End Condo Association, replacing Roger Howlett.

Jim made a motion to approve Renee's appointment to the Aquinnah Gay Head Lighthouse Advisory Board until June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Juli seconded.

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

-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 6:04 pm