

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 3/7/2017
Aquinnah Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Julianne Vanderhoop, Jim Newman, Gary Haley
Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, CPC Chairman Derrill Bazy, Menemsha Lease Lot Holder Vern Welch, Berta Welch, Jay MacLeod, Frank Perez, Carla Chuch, Assessor Chairman Michael Stutz, Gazette reporter Alex Elvin, Attny Marilyn Vukota, Harbormaster Brian Vanderhoop, Sgt. Paul Manning, VTA Director Angela Grant, police Chief Randhi Belain

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

1st on the agenda under Old Business was a review of the minutes from the 2/21 meeting.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from February 21st. Gary seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Derrill and the revised Housing Bank Citizen's Committee ballot question for funding for community housing. He said the non-binding question has been shortened so that funds are not asked to be assigned. He said CPC money is still debatable in terms of a financial resource for the proposed regional housing bank. Other resources were mentioned for island wide allocations to community housing. The question will be "Are you in favor of establishing a regional housing bank, to address the critical housing needs on the Vineyard?" There was consensus by the Board to have the question as both a warrant article and ballot question in May.

-Derrill also reported on the South Mountain Company proposal for site work to be done for the Manning Property. He said they will take the basic ideas in the meetings held for the future of the Manning property held over the last 6 months and put together a schematic. They also have a solar structure that needs a home as well. Tim Larsen has designed a blue heron solar demonstration sculpture that would also hopefully be part of the compound. The \$60K sculpture would be donated along with \$10K in pro bono work to develop the site. He said the CPC wants to move forward with some interior demolition for the Frye shack and the Manning house. He said the shack only needs a little maintenance.

-Juli asked if the sunbird is the same as the one in West Tisbury. There was discussion about having the schematic done before the summer.

Jim made a motion to accept the agreement for South Mountain to do site work for the Manning property compound. Gary seconded.

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

Derrill also said the Conway School graduate students are coming back and with continued CPC funds do follow up to work on planning for the Circle as well as the overlook. Their emphasis will also to look at the bathroom. Derrill said he's come up with a proposal for interior demo work for the next BOS meeting (21st) and will include Jay in the presentation.

-1st on the agenda under New Business was a meeting with various department heads to discuss the Menemsha Lot A spiel damage & proposed repairs. Vern showed the Selectmen pictures of the spiels that are missing off of and adjacent to the dock area on the lot. Vern said he's going to approach the ConCom for a notice of intent to fix and replace the spiels because it has become a safety issue for the docking area. Marilyn said Vern only wishes to comply with that part of the lease agreement that says the Lessee shall maintain the lot in good order and condition as it was when he took on the lease. Adam said he has talked to counsel on the matter and there is agreement with Vern's counsel that there can be an allowance in this matter according to the maintenance clause in the lease agreement. Vern said he plans to fix the spiels at his expense.

The Board, by consensus agreed that Vern could go to the Conservation Commission if he chooses to do so.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Michael Stutz and a request for a warrant article for the relocation of the Fresnel Lens to Aquinnah from the MV Museum. Michael said he was circulating a petition for a warrant article but comes to the Selectmen instead for the warrant article asking the Selectmen to engage themselves in a negotiation with the museum so that the 1st order lens can be housed back up in the Circle, close to the Gay Head Light. He explained the history of the Coast Guard's ownership of the lens and how the museum got recognition from the CG for becoming its steward and where they plan to move it once the new museum is finished in Vineyard Haven. He talked about how other communities in the US are doing Fresnel lens preservation projects. He said the article will be to invite the museum to return the light while still having stewardship over it. He talked about leasing land to the museum so it can display the historic artifact. He said, "since they are planning to move it anyway, why not back up here?" A vote to invite the museum to display the lens back in Aquinnah is warranted. Michael said that he has talked to museum director Phil Wallace and his initial consideration of bringing the lens back was met with general enthusiasm. But his request to talk to the Museum's board of director's chairman was denied. He said maybe a Selectman could more successfully negotiate than him. There was discussion about the plans the Museum has for the lens and CG rules for 1st order lenses being displayed as close to their origin as possible.

-Jim asked Michael if the MV Museum should continue to do the tours. Michael said yes the tours should stay in their domain as curators if they partner with the town to build the facility to store the old lens. Juli said the Selectmen should meet with the MVM board in August. Berta said that the BOS can start now, they don't have to wait. Jim said maybe an island wide petition to show the number of people interested in bringing the lens up to AQ would have more clout. Carla opined what is at stake that MVM has in making the lens the centerpiece of their new museum.

-There was discussion about how to craft a way to get the museum board to consider a return of the lens and that maybe island wide sentiment could get more people involved. Publicity was talked about and making the request positive. Juli said she wants to think about the language of the warrant. Michael gave several warrant article question suggestions. He said it needs to be an invitation and not a demand. An island wide petition instead instead of town meeting acceptance was Juli's concern. Michael accepted the need to have a petition as well.

Jim made a motion to have a warrant article for the annual town meeting to ask for the display of the Fresnel Lens to go to Aquinnah. Gary Seconded.

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

-In Other Business, Adam produced a certificate of authorization for the Board to approve in advance of the application being submitted by the Lighthouse Advisory Board to the Mass Historic commission for the MHC's Preservation Projects Fund.

Jim made a motion to approve the certificate of authorization for the MHC Contract. Gary seconded.

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

-Adam then produced a certificate of authorization for the Board to approve for the same application submission to engage the MHC in a preservation restriction should the grant be approved.

Jim made a motion to approve the certificate of authorization for preservation restriction. Gary seconded.

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

-In Other Business, the Board met with VTA Administrator Angela Grant to hear what new ideas are coming to Aquinnah from the transit authority. She said there has been a Board vote to go with electric vehicles, the primary reason being for reliability; the diesel buses are harder now to maintain. She said it will be a challenge to replace the entire fleet. She said there will have to be in route charging and new infrastructure to go with it. A grant with VW for infrastructure for all vehicle charging is being pursued. Aquinnah is a good spot for charging infrastructure at the circle if it is needed. There was discussion about inductive charging and the mechanism for generating electricity while loading and unloading. She talked about different charging mechanisms. Gary talked about burying the lines and whether or not the wiring could go to 3 phase to accommodate the VTA's electricity needs. She said the bigger issue is adjusting the VTA schedule based on the boat schedule. There was discussion about how the VTA can partner with the town for mutual power benefits. Angie said 70% of the buses will be changed out after five years if the infrastructure gets into place. The remaining rolling stock would be replaced in accordance to the

makeup of the fleet. Angie asked if a group can be put together to work the problem in the next 2 months and to look at funding sources with most of the work occurring in the fall. Gary said he would help with that committee.
-In Other Business, Berta said there is a fundraiser at the Old Town Hall for the ACC this coming Saturday from 3:00 to 7:00.

-Juli asked if there was anything else to come before the board. Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to go into executive session to discuss upcoming collective bargaining with the Police Association.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The roll call vote was Jim (aye), Juli (aye) and Gary (aye).

-The meeting ended at 6:55 pm.