

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 4/5/2011  
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Camille Rose, Chairman, Spencer Booker, Jim Newman

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Derrill Bazzy, Randhi Belain, Bret Stearns, Judie Jardin, Carolyn Feltz, Paul Manning, Jay Smalley, Ed Panek, Jim Hickey, Samantha Church

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

**Old Business-** The Board put off minutes acceptance until the end of the meeting.

**New Business**

-1st order of business was the transfer of the Aquinnah Taxi license from Ed Panek to Samantha Church. Ed told the Board he was selling the taxi business due to family health reasons.

Jim made a motion to accept the request to transfer the license. Spencer seconded.

There were questions about year round service, number of vehicles used in the summer (3) vs the winter (1), where the vehicles will be parked and the rate schedule.

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

Camille thanked Ed for the service he had provided to the town and wished him good luck.

-The next order of business was to consider granting a new taxi license to Josh Tucker & Nick Catt. Adam read an e-mail sent to him asking that the request be withdrawn.

-The Board moved on to discussing proposed changes to the Tribe/Town Public Safety agreement. Tribal Resources Director Bret Stearns reported that the amended changes had to do with building regulations submitted by Woody Vanderhoop and he couldn't speak about them. Camille asked that the matter be tabled to a later date.

-Judy asked that the Board sign off on a couple of short term loan notes for the Town Hall building improvement loan and a CPA loan for the library.

-The Board signed the loan notes.

-Adam made a report on the progress of the interior town hall painting project. He asked that the Board sign off on a change order for additional 3<sup>rd</sup> coat painting work on the walls and baseboards.

The Board signed off on the change order.

-Adam presented a census bureau report asking the Board to vote to approve the continuance of the town as one census precinct. There was discussion about the map the census bureau sent that draws the boundary lines from which the accounted for 311 people reside in the Town. There was discussion about The 9% loss in Aquinnah and who were the 33 people who have left since 2000.

Spencer made a motion to have the Town of Aquinnah remain one precinct. Jim seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was David Nathans, Betsey Mayhew and Craig Dripps from MV Museum coming to the Board with a presentation about expanding the hours for tours of the lighthouse. David explained that the Martha's Vineyard Museum, as steward of the Gay Head lighthouse, has traditionally opened the lighthouse to the public on weekend evenings during the summer for sunset visits. Due to increased

demand and a very positive experience with expanded hours at the Edgartown lighthouse, they would like to expand the hours at Gay Head for the upcoming summer and make the tower available to the public from 10 am-5 pm Tuesdays through Saturdays, and for sunset hours on Fridays and Saturdays. This would run from mid-June through Labor Day. They would close on Sundays and Mondays. Admission will remain at \$5 for adults (children under 12 and Museum members are admitted free).

-David stated they had discussed our plans with Tobias Vanderhoop, Berta Welch, and several of the bus and tour operators and have met with very positive responses. They are continuing to talk with representatives of the Vanderhoop Homestead to plan for some form of joint ticketing for lighthouse and Homestead visitors. They wanted to be sure that the Board was supportive of their efforts.

-Camille said the property next door is for sale and they should be made aware of the proposed increase in hours.

-One question concerns the possibility of buses being able to drop off passengers at the lighthouse gate. Randhi said it would be fine to stop at the path that goes to the lighthouse as long as passengers follow that route and don't wander around the bus and possibly into traffic. There was discussion about having signage along the road, both near the lighthouse driveway and at the entrance to the cliffs, which can augment the small sign that is now hung on the gate at the lighthouse entry.

-Spencer asked what the signage would say?

"Lighthouse open/hours/admission charge." There was discussion about having a temporary "sandwich board" sign and David said there would be employees there as well to give directions for where to park.

-Craig talked about R. Skidmore being the keeper of the lighthouse and it having limited hours because he was a volunteer. The museum would have two employees who most likely won't live in Aquinnah. He asked where could the employees park?

The Board determined that down by the public bathrooms there would be two spaces used for residential parking that could be designated for the museum employees.

Jim made a motion to welcome expanded use and working hours of the Gay Head Lighthouse. Spencer seconded

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

-The next order of business was a report from Adam that the State has increased its allocation of funds for Chapter 90 highway funds. He said that in 2012 the Town will have \$36,097 for highway funds.

-Camille brought up the issue of the 2007 audit and the Board's consideration to have the next audit occur for 2010. Jim said he'd like to see a different auditor for future audits. He said that it's wise to have a different pair of eyes every now and then when doing municipal review. There was discussion about whether or not a contract was in place with R. Brown to do the '10 audit and if after 8 years working with the same person, a change would be beneficial to the town.

Jim made a motion to approve the '07 audit and to send a letter stating such with no written comment to the DOR. Spencer seconded.

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

-Bret Stearns talked about members of the tribal organization becoming deputy shellfish constables for the Town. He said that he and Andrew Jacobs and Curtis Chandler should be appointed by the Board to the constable position because they have been asked to help with matters related to shell fishing in Town waters by the Harbormaster and currently they are using the Town's boat. He said it's more of a housecleaning issue in his own camp and organizationally makes sense since it is a shared activity being done by all those working on the water with the winter flounder project.

There was discussion about the working relationship between the Town and the Tribe. Bret asked for a temporary appointment while Harbormaster Chip Vanderhoop was away. Camille said the assistants would also be very helpful in the summer as well.

Spencer made a motion for the Natural Resources Director (Bret Stearns) and his assignees to become Assistant Shellfish Constables for a 30 day period. Jim seconded.

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

Camille asked Adam to formalize the appointment in a memo from the Board to Bret.

-Bret next talked about the informational kiosk to be established up at the cliffs. South Mountain has been contracted to do the work. He handed out a drawing of the proposed structure and what types of multi-media services it would provide. Bret showed a natural wood shingle that would be used as part of the structure. Derrill showed an area where they would want to put down additional bricking that would need PB and BOS approval since the area is on town land. There was discussion about the history of making bricks from the clay cliff area. Camille said if the types of bricks originally made by the Gay Head Fire Brick Co. could be replicated, it would make the site unique. Bret said the kiosk would be constructed off site and brought to the lot.

-Spencer expressed a concern that the new building would bring into question how the other shops were constructed. There was discussion about what would work best on town land and if the CPA could fund the additional brick paving area without choosing the design or suggested materials.

Jim made a motion to support the project and to have landscaped the town owned area abutting the lot with brick. Spencer seconded.

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

-Bret brought up the subject of leveling the 5,000 sq feet area where the tribe sets up the tent for the annual Pow-Wow at the Aquinnah Circle. He said he has advertised for bids to do the work. Camille said there was to be no excavation but an allowance of fill. She mentioned that Carlos (Montoya) had volunteered to chose the right type of seed to landscape the work area. There was discussion about other areas in the circle where people walk that are also in need of repair. Camille said there are offers from geologists to do a history of the area. Spencer said the area is also a place where the helipad is and that the markers need to stay in place.

-Bret informed the Board about proposed work to repair the culvert on Lobsterville Road. He asked if the town had made plans to spend funds to fix the culvert and if so, he would also have funds available because the road is acknowledged as an important by-way to tribal lands. There was discussion about the FEMA flood plain maps being updated showing geostrata and historical boundary changes. New criteria will be established that could change how large the culvert actually needs to be. There was discussion about how important the road is to the tribe and the current failed condition of the culvert. There was talk about getting finances in place before the start of the new fiscal year. Bret said he's got 18K set aside for engineering and other costs associated with replacing it instead of constantly having it cleaned out.

-Jim asked Bret if advertising could occur in the Toad Rock Times looking for volunteers for the Fire Department as well as Tri-Town. Bret said he could do that.

-On the agenda dealing with correspondence, the Cultural Center requested that the water be turned on at the homestead as soon as possible. Camille said they normally wait until late April. She said that the restaurants at the Head usually have to wait until May. Board members expressed concerns about the

Homestead not having heat and the potential for an overnight freeze damaging the building. The Board questioned the request not having a reason as to why they wanted it turned on so soon. Without a good reason and to be consistent with established policy from prior years about water turn on occurring later in the month, the selectmen declined the request until the end of the month or the beginning of May.

-Camille read correspondence from the All Island Selectmen about a meeting with State Senator Dan Wolf occurring Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>.

-Camille read a request from MASSPIRG to endorse expanding the bottle bill to include other types of recyclable bottles besides beer and soda.

Spencer made a motion to endorse the resolution updating the bottle bill law. Jim seconded.

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

-In Selectmen's Other Business, Camille talked about the skunks up at the head of the cliffs. She said it's a growing concern. She said there has to be some decision on what to do about the pest issue. The issue needs to be addressed. There was discussion about the numbers of them from prior years and what method would work best to have them removed.

Adam said he'd talk to TJ Hegarty and Walter Wylodka about the cost for removal.

-The Selectmen agreed to have a working meeting Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30 to talk about shellfish regulations, cliff and pond leases and the landfill.

-Randhi asked about establishing a reserve fund for police details. There was discussion about the police request to have a warrant article giving them a reserve fund between 2 and 3K to handle detail payments. The Board agreed that the fund will have a 10% administrative fee to go with it. It is going to be a warrant article as far as allocating start up money.

-Randhi also asked about the Tri-Town language change. He asked about rewording the agreement so that funds that come in for services can then be spent for capital needs and only requiring approval from selectmen boards and one vote at the Chilmark Town Meeting. Camille said that it has been voted and approved by the Board at a prior meeting.

-Jim made a motion to accept minutes from the 3 – 15 Selectmen's meeting and the 3 – 14, 15 and 22 BOS/FinCom meetings. Spencer seconded.

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm