

Aquinnah Select Board Meeting
Minutes
01/30/2024

This meeting was a hybrid of in-person and Zoom videoconferencing

Attending: Tom Murphy (Chair), Gary Haley, Julianne Vanderhoop, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator), Chip Vanderhoop, Paul Manning, Sarah Thulin, Martina Thornton (by Zoom)

Call to Order at 5:00 p.m. by Tom Murphy, Chairman

County Manager

(Voted to support legislation that would change County Treasurer from Elected to Appointed)
Martina Thornton reported to Board that the County Commissioners have filed special legislation that would authorize a change in selection of County Treasurer from an elected to an appointed position. The proposed legislation would not require the Treasurer to live in Dukes County and has been supported by each of the other Vineyard towns. Following the presentation, Julie made a motion to support the legislation as proposed, Gary seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes

(Accepted minutes of January 10, 2023)

Squibnocket Pond Preserve Update

(Accepted report of Sarah Thulin)

Sarah Thulin, Aquinnah representative to the M.V. Land Bank, gave the Board a update on the land use plan for the Squibnocket Pond Preserve. The plan that has been submitted to the state Executive Office of Environmental and Energy Affairs anticipates an expected partial implementation this Fall with expected full opening in early Summer of 2025. The state-approved plan will be presented to and need approval from the local Planning Board and Conservation Commissions. Plans call for two access points; one off of Moshup Trail and one off of State Road. The Land Bank will construct a number of boardwalks that cross wetlands on the property. Special stairs will be placed to facilitate dune crossing. Reservations will be required to park in the 12 spaces on Moshup Trail and 13 off of State Road. Reservations will be available on-line. The State has limited access to 129 people per day on the property. It is anticipated that Land Bank ‘rangers’ will be on-site from 7am – 7 pm daily during the season. Land Bank will split management costs.

Tom thanked Sarah for her work on the Land Bank

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant

(Postponed)

Red Beach/West Basin Repairs

(Board approved submission of application for emergency repairs)

Chip Vanderhoop, Sarah Thulin and town administrator informed the Board of deteriorating conditions at the parking area at Red Beach, boat ramp and entrance to West Basin Harbor. Chip indicated that funds previously appropriated to the Historic Preservation funds were no longer available. Sarah told of a “work-up” by Reed Silva for the stone revetment at the parking area. Sarah indicated that she is supportive of a emergency permit to address both areas that will allow work to proceed. Board agreed to T.A. suggestion to hire Keith Fenner to do small amount of necessary emergency repairs and seek permits for permanent fixes.

Animal Control Office

(Accepted T.A. report)

T.A. reported that other towns fund their A.C.O's from a low of \$20K in Chilmark to \$120K in Edgartown. T.A. estimated the first year costs for an A.C.O. to be approx. \$40K that would include construction of basic kennel facilities. It was further pointed out that the position required State approved training at the Town's cost. Board suggested that ads be placed that offered a \$20K salary. In other business Paul Manning explained the responsibility of property owners for deer that have died on private property, State and town roads as being the State Highway Dept, Town A.C.O. and individual property owners respectively.

Cemetery Rules

(Accepted policies and map as provided by Eleanor Hebert)

Meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.