

Meeting of the
Aquinnah Select Board
January 19, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was held via Zoom videoconference

Attending: Jim Newman (chairman), Julie Vanderhoop, Gary Haley, Chief Belain, William Lake, Chief Bollin, Wendy Swolinsky, Barbara Bassett, Paul Manning, Liz Durkey, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator)

Selectman Newman called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

Minutes Approved
(January 5, 2021)

Martha's Vineyard Commission (Heard a Report from Liz Durkee)

Liz Durkee, Climate Change Planner from the Martha's Vineyard Commission, introduced herself to the Board. She stated that the bridge at Harriph's Creek was a priority with the Commission as they plan for potential areas of concern during large storms. Chief Bollin suggested that she check with Tim Carroll, Chilmark Town Administrator, to see construction details of the existing bridge. J. Madison pointed out that the most recent rebuild of the bridge, in 1992, was done with assistance of Federal funds as a result of the bridge providing primary access to the Tribal lands. Ms. Durkee also requested that the Town, to the extent possible, consider contributions to the Island Resiliency Plan. The Board agreed to consider a modest contribution from town funds available in the current budget and to include some monies in the FY '22 budget now under development.

Letter to MVC

(Authorized Town Administrator to write letter of support for MVC Revised Energy Policy)
Town Administrator pointed out that at the last meeting the Board supported the Revised Energy Policies but didn't instruct that a letter be sent to the MVC. Board directed the T.A. to write and send such a letter.

Nepotism Discussion

(T.A. to ask Personnel Committee to develop regulations)

Town Administrator pointed out that the Town has no personnel policy relating to potential nepotism. The Board decided following a discussion that the best course of action would be to refer the matter to the Personnel Committee. They instructed the T.A. to request that the Personnel Committee develop regulations as part of the personnel policies.

Building Project Update

(No action taken)

T.A. informed the Board that the RFS has been advertised in local papers as well as the Central Register. The RFS developed with much assistance from Karen Salvatore resulted in inquires from twenty-five firms so far. The Projects Committee will meet next week to discuss future actions.

Police Contracts

(Appointed Jim Newman to work with T.A.)

T.A. asked that a member of the Board meet with him and Jack Collins to give Atty. Collins direction on renewal of the police contracts. Jim Newman volunteered and the Board agreed to appoint him to work with the T.A.

Renewal of Menemsha Leases

(Instructed T.A. to investigate amount that can be charged for annual rent)

Jim Newman stated that he thought that amount of annual rent is limited if the Town wants to avoid putting the leases out to public bid. Board instructed T.A. to consult with Town Counsel.

Land Sale (Map 5, Lot 56)

(Instructed the T.A. to take whatever steps necessary for sale)

Board discussed sale of Map 5, Lot 56. Jim expressed his wishes to sell the land to get it back on the tax rolls. Wendy Swolinsky suggested that the Board consider using the land to construct a solar farm because the land is worth a “gazillion, million dollars.” Gary suggested that the Town consider buying land for access.

Fire Department Membership

(Authorized Chief Bollin to increase membership)

Chief Bollin requested permission to add a few members to the department. The Board authorized him to add members.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m.