

Meeting of the
Aquinnah Select Board
March 2, 2021

Minutes (as amended)

This meeting was held via Zoom videoconference

Attending: Jim Newman (Chairman), Julie Vanderhoop, Gary Haley, Chief Belain, Barbara Bassett, Jay Smalley, Laura Silber, Nancy Slate, Paul Manning, Simon Bollin, Jim Glavin, Morgan Hodson, Howard Goldstein.

Selectman Newman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes Approved
(February 9, 2021)

Board voted 2-0 with Gary Abstaining because he didn't attend the meeting

Repair of Stone Revetment at Menemsha
(No action taken)

Jay Smalley addressed the Board by providing notice that the rock revetment along the east side of Menemsha Channel continue to slip away from the bank toward the channel. Jay asked that he be allowed to speak with the town grantsperson to investigate the possibility of obtaining grants to improve the steadily worsening condition. It was pointed out by Julie that permits from D.E.P. would be required to do any work and that process is lengthy and complicated. Julie also suggested that the Coast Guard be conducted for possible assistance.

FinCom Personnel
(No Action Taken)

Town Administrator provided an update on conversations between the Town Accountant and auditors. There is a need to provide support to improve financial management of Town Affairs.

Transportation of Food Waste
(Julie to inquire of IGI to find a solution)

Jim Glavin explained the problems the Board of Health ("BoH") is having with emptying the food containers at the landfill. The Refuse District is not willing/able to regularly empty the containers and it is causing problems for Natalie. He suggested that Jay Smalley take the containers from the landfill to the drop-off location. Jay agreed that he would be willing to add that to his duties. However the Town Administrator stated that "Jay does everything he's asked for the Town and adding this to his responsibilities may be too much." Julie indicated that she would be willing to take the issue to Island Grown Initiative ("IGI") to find a solution.

Building Project Update
(No action taken)

T.A. reported that the Projects Committee ("PC") had met and reviewed four (4) submissions received in response to the advertisements. Three of the firms will be interviewed for further consideration.

M.V. Food Waste Initiative
(Representative did not appear)

M.V. Housing Bank Initiative
(Appointed Julie Vanderhoop as Aquinnah Representative)

Julie Fay made a presentation to the Board regarding a Vineyard-wide effort to create a Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank. She explained that it would be modeled after the Land Bank probably with a 1% tax assessed to Buyer's of real estate on the Vineyard with a value of One Million Dollars or more. She asked the Board to appoint an Aquinnah resident as representative to the Island-wide Committee. The Board voted to appoint Julie.

Tribal Litigation Decision
(Voted to send a letter to Tribe)

Board discussed the recent decision in litigation between the Tribe and Town. Jin Newman suggested that Town write a letter to the Tribe inviting them to reinstate a tribal/town agreement to share services. Board voted to instruct Town Administrator to write such a letter.

Affordable Housing Issue
(Asked the Town Administrator to look for Annual Town Meeting Vote)

Barbara Bassett raised the issue of whether the Town had violated a Town Meeting vote that instructed the Town not to use land behind the Town Hall for affordable housing. Julie said that she thought the vote, which she remembered, was specific to the project being contemplated at that time; not a total ban on use for affordable housing. Barbara asked if there were minutes of the meeting. Town Administrator stated the minutes of that meeting would be in possession of the Town Clerk. Town Administrator agreed to check with the Clerk to determine the nature of the vote that was taken.

Executive Session
(Voted to enter Executive Session and NOT to return to Open Session)

Julie made the motion to enter executive session to discuss police contract negotiations and not to return to open session. Gary seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.