

Meeting of the
Aquinnah Select Board
May 4, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was held via Zoom videoconference

Attending: Jim Newman, Julianne Vanderhoop, Gary Haley, Jay Smalley, Rachel Vanderhoop, Randhi Belain, Jason Widdiss, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator).

Selectman Newman called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes Adopted
(March 2, & April 9, 2021 and April 23 minutes Adopted w/
change to include Gary in attendance on March 2)

Jason Widdiss – Aquinnah Circle Lease
(Voted to Assess Rent at the Cliffs)

Jason asked if the Town intended to assess rent to the shops at the Cliffs this year. Administrator explained that last year the Town was not sure of the numbers of visitors to expect at the Cliffs and as an accommodation to leasees forgave rental payments. As it turned out in actuality the summer brought more visitors than ever to the area. Jim Newman agreed and said that as of this meeting there had been no formal decision on whether to charge the rental fee or not, he felt the Town should collect rent this year. He moved and Gary seconded a motion for the Town to charge the same rent as 2019. The motion carried with Juli abstaining.

Summer Parking Rules
(Rules to be submitted to Selectmen for consideration at next meeting)

Rachel Vanderhoop gave a rundown of the parking permits process and rules that were put into place last year. She stated that there was not a single complaint with the process and rules last year. She said most folks were grateful for the clarity of new rules and liked picking up their permits through the window on the side of the building. She made several comments which she felt would be fairer to residents. The gist of her comments was that taxpayers would be issued one residential parking pass for each lot. Additional permits could be purchased at \$50.00 each. Year-round rentals would also be available for one free residential parking permit. Other rentals would be charged for their parking permits. No resident would be issued more than one free permit. It was agreed that a sheet with rules would be considered at the next meeting.

Select Board Meeting
(Decided to hold meetings at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays)

West Basin Issues
(No action taken)

There was lots of discussion about cleaning up the area. In the end, the Board made no demands and decided to leave things as they stand.

Other Business
(No Action Taken)

Juli reported on the efforts of Cape Cod Martha's Vineyard Housing Bill. Four towns had signed up to support the legislation along with Nantucket. The bill as proposed will assess a 2% fee on buyers of property over One Million Dollars. Funds would be used to support acquisition and

construction of affordable housing. Jim Newman expressed the opinion that some of the funds collected should go toward funding education costs.

Randhi reported on police sensitivity training that he and other Island police chiefs attended. Officers of all Island towns would also be offered the training. He felt the training put the police “ahead of the curve” on required training for officers in Massachusetts.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 p.m.