

Meeting of Aquinnah Select Board  
March 24, 2020  
Minutes

The meeting was called to order by a telephone conference at 9:00 a.m. Attending by phone were Gary Haley, Jim Newman and Julianne Vanderhoop, Jim Glavin, Sophia Welch, Isaac Taylor Gary Robinson Mitzi Pratt, Sarah Saltonstall and Jeff Madison (Town Administrator)

Meeting was called to order by the Town Administrator as Chm. Vanderhoop was not there to open the meeting. Ms Vanderhoop joined the meeting at 9:05 a.m. At that time, the Board agreed that discussion would be led by the Town Administrator as the only listed item on the agenda was a discussion of the impact of the Covid-19 virus on Town Affairs.

First item discussed was a discussion on whether the Board would consider declaration of a State of Emergency. Following the discussion Jim Newman made a motion for the Town of Aquinnah to adopt the State of Emergency. Gary Haley Seconded the motion. The vote was 3-0 in favor.

The Board then adopted by a vote of 3-0 a list of Rules for the Town Offices during the course of the State of Emergency.

Discussion moved to actions by the Board of Health regarding their adoption of Restrictions on Construction in Aquinnah. Jim Glavin explained the reasons for the actions of the BoH which differ from the rules adopted by other towns on the Vineyard. Mr. Glavin pointed out that at the time the Aquinnah BoH met the orders adopted in other towns did not contain a "sunset clause". He felt that was unreasonable. Now the orders have inserted April 1, 2020 as a date to revisit the effect of the order. Another concern his Board had was methods for enforcement that in other towns vested in the Health Agent as well as the local police. His Board decided that was not acceptable.

After expressing those objections Mr. Glavin indicated that neither he, nor his Board, had intentions of standing in the way of an Island-wide stay-at-home order patterned after an Order passed by Nantucket. He further accepted the involvement of Gary Robinson who recommended that the Aquinnah BoH join with other towns. During the discussion Jim Newman pointed out that the Aquinnah Police Chief is a "weak chief." Mr. Newman explained that to mean that the Chief's authority falls under the Board of Selectmen as opposed to being authorized to act independently. This Mr. Newman pointed out had been voted and in place for many years.

Isaac Taylor mentioned that he had been provided an audio recording from Katie Carroll that he found helpful to provide information on effective precautions to be taken to prevent, or at least limit, spread of the Corona virus.

Sarah Saltonstall asked about meetings scheduled to take place later in the day. It was explained to her by Jim Glavin that the teleconferences were not relevant to BoH business. She seemed to accept that information.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.