

Up-Island Council on Aging Board

October 17, 2023 (via Zoom)

Present: Cynthia Mitchell, Anna Alley, Peter Cook, Marie Larsen, Susan Collins, Gary Haley,
Bethany Hammond, Joyce Albertine, Jennie Gadowski, Susan Merrill

Cindy Mitchell called the Up-Island Council on Aging Board meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

Cindy began the discussion of candidates interested in being appointed to the Board. She reminded the Board that many of the candidates expressed interest in volunteering in other capacities or even possibly as members of work groups or subcommittees should they not be selected. Cindy also reminded the group that her role on the board is temporary and that there may at some point be a spot for a second individual from this candidate pool to be appointed.

Marie posed a question regarding which, if any, version of the “bylaws” is being followed during this discussion as one version states the person recommended to serve on the council must be “appointed by the Board of Selectmen of the town in which that person resides” and felt that disqualified Bernadette Lyons from being recommended. Susan Collins agreed with that understanding of the “bylaws”.

Marie shared that it was the understanding of Chilmark that they needed to fill their vacant Council on Aging Board seats quickly and did so without the recommendation from the current Board. She expressed concern in the Boards involvement in the selection process for West Tisbury’s vacant seat when that was not the method for the two other Up-Island towns. Cindy did not feel like the issue should prevent them from making a recommendation during this meeting as the “bylaws” have been an ongoing issue that it a work in progress.

Jennie pointed out the application form the applicants received from the town of West Tisbury states that there was no requirement for town residency and therefore should not prevent a candidate from out of town from being considered.

Anna expressed that all the candidates would make for excellent recommendations to the Select Board but as there was only one seat would recommend Beth Kramer due to her long history with the town and experience with the Friends of the Up-Island COA and skillset.

Susan Collins also agreed she would vote for Beth Kramer based on her experience with the aging community.

Peter Cook also felt Beth would be the best candidate to recommend.

Cindy also voiced her support for choosing to recommend Beth to the Select Board for the Council on Aging Boards vacant West Tisbury seat and highlighted her recent experience in issues the Board will currently be facing.

Marie agreed with the selection of Beth Kramer and reiterated the wonderful candidate field they were selecting from. She was excited by the variety in age, gender and experience of the candidates but felt Beth's experience made her the best choice.

Anna Alley made a motion to recommend Beth Kramer to the West Tisbury Select Board for appointment to the Board of the Up-Island Council on Aging. Peter Cook seconded the motion.

The motion was passed unanimously by rollcall vote.

Discussion was had on the availability of Boards members for future a meeting.

Joyce requested the Board meet in person at the COA the first meeting or two to allow the new board members to meet the staff and see how the agency works. Cindy agreed that was important.

With no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bethany Hammond