

Gay Head Lighthouse Advisory Board Notes of Meeting 5-18-21

Members present: Chairman Len Butler, Richard Skidmore, Tom Murphy, Jim Pickman, Kathy Rainey

Members Not present: Bettina Washington

Len opened the meeting at 4:33pm

4/6/21 Minutes – Richard motioned to accept the minutes as amended. Seconded by Kathy. Committee voted 5-0, motion passed.

Review of Accounts – There is approx. \$22,267 in bank and \$48,000 in CPA FY'21 funds. In conversation with Juli Vanderhoop, Jim noted that she had mentioned that a landscaper is claiming that the Lighthouse owes them \$10,000. This was news to the Committee. The Town has only contracted with Landscape and all their invoices have been paid. Richard has hired an employee of Landscape for himself, but he doesn't know of any outstanding invoices.

Lighthouse & Park Report – Richard had a group from the University of Tennessee visiting the lighthouse (approx. 22 people). New fencing estimate is approx. \$13,640 (increase from prior \$11,800 estimate). Richard is waiting for photo renderings of the fence and will share with the Committee when he receives them. Funding for the fencing will come out of the non-CPC funding (\$22,267 in the bank). Painting is pending town meeting approval (has not been painted in 2 years). Path between Lighthouse and park is deteriorating. DPW is working on getting material to fix the path. Thus far, there are 4 weddings scheduled (2 in June and 2 in August). The weddings will have exclusive use of the park and access to the Lighthouse.

Fundraising / Grants – Gisele Gauthier, Jeff and Len are working on a proposal for the Dept. of Transportation for the shared streets and spaces grant. The grant is a 50/50 grant with a \$50,000 limit and would offset the Town's expense of the pedestrian guardrail. People have been keeping to the path, but the guardrail was mandated by the planning board and would increase pedestrian safety. The town has the poles for the guardrail and Bartlett has been awarded the contract but is waiting for the town to develop funding.

Restoration Update – no report.

New Business – Vineyard Wind has received federal approval for the wind farm. Final MOA has been signed. MOA identified the Lighthouse as a significant and historic navigation structure. Mitigation funding from Vineyard Wind will go to the Town of Aquinnah to be used for the restoration stabilization project. Vineyard Wind will fund, conduct and administer the \$137,500 mitigation plan on the impacts on the Gay Head Light. The Committee reviewed and discussed the mitigation plan as presented in the MOU (developed from the International Chimney restoration proposal). The Committee will be included in the deliberations for choosing the contractor for the work. The Committee agreed that the status of this effort should be presented to the Select Board. Mitigation funding needs to be initiated prior to commencement of construction of the wind farm. The Committee hopes that the mitigation funds will be available for next fall. Richard motioned that the GHLAB concurs with the MOA that BOEM has posted and signed by all concern parties and authorizes Len to sign on behalf of the Committee. Tom seconded. Committee voted 5-0, motion passed.

The Committee discussed the proposed South Fork Wind Farm. This farm would have a relatively minor impact compared to Vineyard Wind given the size (16 wind turbines). However, the site is closer to

Aquinnah than the Vineyard Wind site. There will be an adverse effect meeting in June for all affected parties to attend (this includes the Lighthouse, Cliffs, ACC, Shops, and the Tribe).

The Committee briefly discussed the Revolution Wind proposal. Proposed wind farm site is approx. 12 miles off the shore of Aquinnah (west of Nomans) and the proposal includes up to 100 turbines (constructed in phases). There have only been 2 visual simulations of visual effects from Cuttyhunk and New York. There will be a presentation of the project this coming Thursday (meeting is by invite only). The project will significantly change the view to the South-West. Len will send out the link for the meeting.

Tourist Season – As of now, there are no plans on opening the Lighthouse. Richard believes that August 1st is when Gov. Baker will be removing all mandates. Richard is thinking that this would make a good date to open, and he has started inquiries about staff. Jim said that he had read that the Governor was moving towards removing mandates sooner.

Other Business – Kathy's time on the Committee is limited and will reach out to the other condo owners to see if there is interest to sit on the Committee. The Committee briefly discussed the general impressions of the condo residents with the operation of the Lighthouse. Kathy noted that, in general, for the last 3 years, the association is happy and has not expressed issues or concerns to her. Jim stated that because of ongoing commitments and obligations, he will only be able to serve on the Committee for one more year. The Committee discussed Bill Lake as a potential GHLAB member and engaging younger town residents to get involved with GHLAB and other town committees.

Committee scheduled their next meeting for June 15th, 2021 at 4:30pm.

Committee voted unanimously to adjourn. The meeting ended at 5:49pm.