

Meeting of the  
Aquinnah Select Board  
February 22, 2022

## **Minutes**

*The meeting was held by Zoom videoconferencing*

Attending: Gary Haley, Tom Murphy, Juli Vanderhoop Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator), John Davis, Morgan Hodson, Bill Lake, Berta Welch, John Bodnar, Allen Rugg, Jamie Vanderhoop, Michael Norver, Jim Pickman, Paul Manning, Howard Goldstein, Karen Salvatore, Theresa Manning, Suzanne Boyer, Jim Newman, Martha Vanderhoop, Kayla Darcey, Theresa Levinson, Randhi Belain, Alexandra Taylor, Amira Madison

Chairman Haley called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

### **Minutes**

(No minutes were approved at this meeting)

#### **#9 Aquinnah Circle**

(Comments and Committee Recommendation was referred to Town Counsel)

Town Administrator gave a short review of the process followed by the Aquinnah Circle District Committee (ACDC) leading up to the development of the Request for Proposals (RFP) advertised in the Vineyard Gazette. Jim Pickman then explained there were three (3) responses to the RFP: One by the Aquinnah Cultural Center; One by John Bodnar; and, One by Alexandra Taylor. Each proponent was given an opportunity to present their proposal to the ACDC representatives. After listening to the proposals the ACDC decided to recommend that Alexandra Taylor's response was the best and that they recommend the Select Board consider her proposal.

Jaime Vanderhoop was recognized and she expressed the opinion that the process had ignored a right of first refusal that should have been accorded to the ACC as representatives of the Tribe. She went on to speak about the rights of indigenous people being ignored and her feelings that this was particularly onerous in this community. Her remarks were quite lengthy and included reference to Dawes Act and other injustices on Native peoples. Julie Vanderhoop thanked everyone for attending the meeting and expressed her thoughts that this could be solved through communication. She also thanked everyone for listening to all comments.

Bill Lake said that this is an important discussion for everyone to have. He further felt that placing a restaurant at the site would be a benefit to the community and attract more people to the Lighthouse. Amira Madison expressed her desire to improve tribe/town relations. Berta Welch said she wished that the discussion should have happened long ago and that there may be a responsibility of the Select Board to act in a certain way under Massachusetts laws.

Ultimately Julie Vanderhoop made a motion to refer the matter to Town Counsel. Tom Murphy seconded that motion and the motion was approved 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

The meeting was adjourned.