

Aquinnah Select Board
Minutes
April 5, 2022

Meeting was held inside the Town Hall to accommodate number of persons attending.

Attending: Julie Vanderhoop, Tom Murphy, Gary Haley, Howard Goldstein, Chris Murphy, Carole Vandal, Jay MacLoed, Theresa Manning, Carla Cuch, Amera Ignacio, Paul Manning, Mitzi Pratt, Berta Welch, Missy Smalley, Mike Hebert, Bill Lake, Jay Smalley, Janette Vanderhoop, Alexandra Taylor, Susan Collins, Jamie Vanderhoop, Wood Vanderhoop, Cristina Hook, Susan Jenson, Rob Scheller, Heidi Scheller, Jay bodnar, Kevin Devine, Neva Goldstein, Faith Vanderhoop, Naushon Vanderhoop, (others) Jeff Madison (Town Administrator)

Minutes

(Accepted Minutes of February 14, February 22 and March 22, 2022)

#9 Aquinnah Circle

(Town to meet w/ Tribal Rep. to develop a new RFP)

Discussion began with a request that Town Administrator read a letter from Cheryl Maltaise into the record. The letter, was read, and pointed out that the misstatements and inaccuracies it contained. Specifically, her contention that the lot had been in the Manning family for generations does not reflect the ownership of the lot by the Vanderhoop family, not Manning. Further her assertion that somehow the purchase, by the Town, qualified the town “opportunities to realize additional grant funding and adverse effects mitigation funding.” Ms. Maltaise further asserts the Tribe should be offered a right of first refusal on leasing the property.

Mike Hebert, former Selectman, explained that lot was not in Town ownership at the time the lease at the Cliffs was considered for priority to Tribal members. He felt that had the lot been considered at the time, he would have supported including language that would have allowed for any town owned, leased land at the Cliffs be leased to a Tribal member.

Kristina Hook-Leslie expressed an opinion that the RFP process should be started over.

Julie suggested that there be a meeting with representatives from the Tribal Council to talk, listen and discuss resolution. Kristina suggested including someone from the Aquinnah Cultural Center be on whatever committee is convened. Berta suggested that a member of the Town Parking Committee be included.

Tom Murphy felt that this is a “very difficult situation” and he read Alexandra Taylor’s offer. He stated that 92% of taxes in Town are seasonal and the Select Board has a responsibility to them and must follow the law. They must act in a way that is fair to everyone. “It is a shame that we can’t please everyone.” He suggested that the best solution may be to lease #9 Aquinnah Circle to Alexandra and #13 to the Tribe, but understands that isn’t possible under the current circumstances.

Berta pointed out that when the Lighthouse was purchased there was discussion of a museum on the property.

Jay Smalley indicated that he believed there needed to be discussions between the Town and Tribe.

Alexandra Taylor said she gets emotional when discussing her project. She is sorry her children aren't able to have the same experience that she did while growing up in Town. She would like to participate in a process that makes it right.

Carla Cuch said that she appreciated Alexandra's words and urged the community to keep the conversation going.

Finally, Julie made a motion for the Select Board to meet with representatives of the Tribal Council to continue discussions toward development of a revised RFP. Gary seconded the motion and the motion carried 3 in favor and 0 opposed.

Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant
(accepted articles as explained by T.A.)

Playground Fence
(Approved sending RFP by Committee)

Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.