

Aquinnah Select Board Meeting
Minutes
November 1, 2022

Attending: Gary Haley, Tom Murphy, Julianne Vanderhoop, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator), Allen Rugg, Suzanne Rugg, Berta Welch, Kristina Hook, Bill Lake, Amara Ignacio, Paul Manning, Carla Cuch, Martha Vanderhoop, Del Araujo

Call to Order at 3:00 p.m. by Julie Vanderhoop, Chairman

Minutes
(deferred)

Landfill Solar Array

(Accepted FinCom recommendation to take over ownership of Solar Array at Transfer Station) Allen Rugg, FinCom Chairman, presented a recommendation by FinCom that the Town exercise an option it holds to take over ownership of the solar array at the landfill/transfer station. Payment to the Town of approximately \$27,000.00 by Vineyard Power would be forgiven in the exchange. South Mountain Builders have inspected the unit and declared it in good condition. Tom Murphy made a motion to accept the FinCom recommendation. Gary Haley seconded the motion. The vote was 3 in favor, 0 opposed.

Cliff Lease Renewal

(No action – Form a Committee)

Much discussion some of which (but not all) is reported:

Kristina Hook: No difference of opinion if Kevin Divine or Amara Madison who are Tribal Council appointees were in attendance.

Martha Vanderhoop: difficult to discuss without considering all leases (Private and Tribe). Perhaps it is best to take one year to review proposals by both sides. Take “a pause” because she has no idea of what the Tribe is doing.

Julie: Wait to give everyone a chance to line up all Town leases including Menemsha leases. “This meeting is a first step in bringing folks together to listen to comments and correct leases as we move into the future.”

Kristina: “I remember fighting for the land to stay in Tribal hands.” [Now] is time to come together. And it doesn’t matter who holds the lease. We want to tell you who we are and [that you must] work with the Tribe.”

Julie: Do [the people here] have a preference on whether they lease from the Town or Tribe? No answer.

Berta: Cliff area always [leased by] Wampanoags. “I don’t feel the need to change the way we do business. I’m very pleased to [continue to] work with the Town. I [don’t understand] what all the fuss is about.”

Tom: “We’re only here because the [existing] lease has 3 lots directly with Town and others are indirect[ly] through the Tribe.” This is an attempt to everyone direct or indirect [on the same page]. “I’m curious as to how that came to be.” “Taking time [to consider renewal] sounds reasonable.”

Julie: We want to make sure everyone has a lease that is acceptable..

Tom: “We should schedule a meeting of a committee to discuss [next steps].”

Julie: “Whatever is decided, [a draft lease] should go to Tribe by January 1, 2023. “How do rents get negotiated?”

Del Araujo: How are [questions of leases] ultimately affected?

Lots of other discussion; no resolution, No resolution or suggestion on who will serve on Tom’s suggested committee or when they will meet.

Tom brought up decorations that could be placed at Aquinnah Circle. Thanked Del for the decoration of his shop. Kristina thanked Del for October decoration at Del’s shop.

Meeting was adjourned.