

Aquinnah Select Board Meeting  
Minutes  
April 11, 2023

Attending: Gary Haley, Tom Murphy, Julianne Vanderhoop (Chair), Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator, Rich Colter, Deborah Colter, Dan Doyle, Kathy Newman, Sarah Thulin, Woody Vanderhoop, Jim Newman, Mike Hebert

Call to Order at 5:00 p.m. by Julie Vanderhoop, Chairman

Minutes  
(Unanimously Adopted Minutes of March 21, 2023 meeting as submitted)

MVC Transportation Engineering Services  
(Accepted report from Dan Doyle)

Kathy Newman inquired about whether services in Aquinnah could include traffic counts at Aquinnah Circle. Dan Doyle, MVC Planner, talked around the issue by suggesting incorporation of new technology that would track calls made from Aquinnah Park. Where are the calls being made to while visiting?

Tree Trimming on Map 5, Lot 100  
(Authorized cutting trees to preserve view)

Town Administrator provided copy of legal opinion from Town Counsel along with emails and copy of deed to Town from Hannah Malkin. Board reviewed materials provided. Rich and Deborah Colter, current owners of the Malkin property, told the Board of Russell Mahoney's email sent prior to their purchase and discussions they had with Atty. Coogan to assure reservation of a view easement across the property. Despite Town Counsel's written opinion that included the on-point legal case on which current law is based, limiting uses of deeded property to "plain meaning of language in the deed [as written]," the Select Board voted to allow for the clearing. Tom Murphy made a motion to interpret the deed to honor intent of Malkin which she stated "to maintain land in its natural state . . . ". Julie Vanderhoop seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous to allow for cutting.

Vineyard Transit Authority Appointment  
(Appointed Kristina Hook Leslie as Aquinnah Representative)

Board inquired whether there had been any interest other than Kristina. Town Administrator indicated that Paul Manning had expressed interest and would be willing to serve. Board ;unanimously voted to appoint Kristina.

Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment  
(Appointed Sibel Suman to Board of Appeals)

Old Business  
(Voted to pursue 2% increase in Short-term Rental Tax revenues for Affordable Housing)

This item on agenda, taken out of turn, created much discussion. Mike Hebert suggested that the Town consider language that would designate 2% increase in short-term rental tax toward a Town affordable Housing account. Jim Wallen suggested that the affordable housing issue is causing a crisis in Vineyard economy. Mike indicated that the Local Housing Committee needed a fund from which to draw on to move affordable housing initiatives. Tom Murphy indicated that while he supports affordable housing Aquinnah is far and away the leader in providing affordable housing amongst Vineyard Towns. He indicated that he learned from attending an Island-wide affordable housing discussion that West Tisbury's housing stock has about 1.8% designated as affordable while Aquinnah's designation is over 24%. He pointed out that this has a devastating effect on our tax rate. Jim Wallen commented that that figure included tribal housing and shouldn't count toward overall figures. Sarah Thulin commented that she commends all the folks who have worked to increase affordable housing in Aquinnah. Tom pointed out that he feels a fiduciary duty toward the entire Town and the figures are the figures.

Discussion strayed to articles included on the Special town Meeting warrant. Town Administrator indicated that the articles on zoning were placed on the warrant to assure attendance at the meeting. Essentially nobody spoke in favor of the Select Board giving an opinion to the Planning Board. Jim Newman indicated that he had no idea where this is coming from and that he never heard of the Select Board suggesting ideas to the Planning Board.

In the end, Julie made a motion that was seconded by Tom that the Board designate 2% of the short term rental fee to create a Town affordable housing account. The motion was passed unanimously.

Board of Appeals Appointment  
(Appointed Sibel Suman to replace Jim Vercysse)

After seeing the email request from Sibel included in the packet, Tom Murphy moved and Gary Haley seconded that Sibel Suman be appointed to the Board of Appeals. Without discussion the vote was unanimous.

Audit Signing  
(Authorized Town Administrator to sign audit contract)

Town Administrator explained the need for a contract to conduct audit through 2022. Following the explanation Tom Murphy made a motion to authorize TA to sign the contract with Roselli, Clark & Associates of Woburn, MA to conduct the audit. The motion was seconded by Gary Haley and the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Annual Town Meeting  
(Authorized and signed warrant as presented)

Julie and then Tom read the proposed warrant articles for the Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 9, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. All proposed articles, including stretch code addition to town by-laws as proposed by Bill Lake and Community Preservation articles as proposed by CPC Committee through Derrill Bazy, were approved as presented. Following reading, Gary moved and Tom seconded a motion to approve the warrant as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

### MCC Agreement

(Signed management agreement with ACC)

Woody Vanderhoop presented an agreement to the Board that would authorize the Aquinnah Cultural Center to manage a \$15,000.00 grant that was received from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Julie commented that this is “a great thing.” The grant will provide funding for bilingual signage at the Aquinnah Circle and intersection of Moshup Trail and State Road. Tom made a motion to sign th agreement as presented. Gary seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Tom thanked Woody for his work.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.