

Aquinnah Select Board Meeting

Minutes

09-19-2023

Attending: Tom Murphy (Chair), Julie Vanderhoop, Gary Haley, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator) Paul Manning, Jay Smalley, Del Araujo, Diamond Araujo,

Call to Order at 5:00 p.m. by Tom Murphy, Chairman

Chairman Murphy congratulated Juli Vanderhoop on her selection for the Martha's Vineyard Creative Living award. All joined in congratulating Julie on the award.

Minutes

(Accepted minutes of August 29, 2023)

Infrastructure Update

(Accepted verbal report of Chairman Murphy)

Tom Murphy gave an update on progress of matters under consideration by the Infrastructure Committee. He reported: repairs to soffit at rear of fire station has been completed; Doors at fire station are expected to be installed by the end of October; Town Administrator has completed RFP for repair of exterior of Police Station and submitted required documents for listing in the State Register as well as COMMBUYS site; Committee member Adrian Higgins has continued investigation of options for new generator capable of powering at Town Hall and Fire Station during an emergency. Gary Haley indicated that all that is needed is power for the Town Hall; not Fire Station. Chairman Murphy said we will continue to investigate costs of a system that would power both.

Mini-Split Update

(Accepted report by Town Administrator)

Town Administrator reported that 4 bids were returned to RISE Engineering. Infrastructure Committee reviewed and made a recommendation to be passed along to RISE that bid wit ceiling units in each office and restroom w/ ductwork in attic be accepted.

Website ADA Compliance

(Accepted Administrator Report)

Administrator reported on Zoom session with consultant from Civic Plus wherein they discussed potential town liability for non-compliance with ADA rules for using website. Julie inquired whether we knew how other towns handled this and whether they had made compliance a priority. Administrator agreed to look into that. Paul Manning asked why Civic Plus had not made adjustments on their own as part of the Town's regular agreement. Administrator replied that they were willing to make the improvements, but expected to be paid to do so.

Aquila Company Request

(Endorsed program proposed by Del Araujo)

Del Araujo and his sister Diamond came with a proposal to hold an event on Sunday, October 8 at Aquinnah Park that would expand on a program they did last year in conjunction with the Aquinnah Cultural Center that included a scavenger hunt. This year's program would have live

music and potentially food trucks and would run from 11:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with a fire pit w/ smores for children corn hole tournament. Last year's event attracted 75-80 people and they expected more folks to attend this year. Tom commended Del for his improvements on his building. He praised Jay for improved exterior of Gay Head Store too. Julie suggested that there be a raffle to assist payment of playground. Select Board unanimously accepted and endorsed the program.

Roadside Trimming
(Accepted actions of Highway Inspector)

Julie had asked that roadside trimming be expanded on Church Street. Jay Smalley reported that the brush had been removed as requested.

Fishing Derby Parking
(Continue to allow expanded parking at W. Basin)

Town Administrator reported to Board that parking was out of control at the beginning of Fishing Derby. He told Board that he spoke with Derby officials regarding trespass on dunes. Derby officials indicated they would put the word out as best they could that this was not allowed. Paul Manning indicated that police would issue tickets but that violations to this point had been minimal.

Up-Island Council on Aging
(Appointed Gary Haley to temporarily fill vacant position on UICOA Board)

Town Administrator read email from Jen Rand in West Tisbury who requested that a member of the Select Board be appointed temporarily to fill vacancy. Gary volunteered. Vote was unanimous in favor of appointment.

Police Contract Negotiations
(Deferred discussion)

Update from Chief Bolin
(Accepted Chief's report)

Long discussion on water available on fire fighting capabilities, specifically water sources. Chief Bolin brought maps that showed available water sources. He indicated that there is no way to change insurance company classification. Aquinnah is in the same classification as the rest of the Island.

Other matters

Julie brought up the matter of racist signs being posted around Oak Bluffs. She felt that the Board should join in a statement being developed by the a group that will be written in the coming weeks. She will participate in that group and report back.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.