

Meeting of the  
Aquinnah Select Board  
November 30, 2021

## **Minutes**

*The meeting was held by Zoom video conference*

Attending: Gary Haley, Tom Murphy, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator), Morgan Hodson, Jim Decoulos, David Golden (RRG), Harald Sheid (RRG), Jessica Roddy, Juliette Fay, John Abrams, Mark Friedman, Matt DiAndrea, Laura Silber, Rich Smith, Peter Temple, Carlos Montoya, Eric Stange Absent: Julianne Vanderhoop

Chairman Haley called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. It was pointed out that Juli had a prior commitment and would not be attending the meeting.

### **Minutes**

(Accepted minutes of November 22, 2021 meeting as presented)

#### **Tax Classification Hearing**

(Adopted a Minimum Residential Factor of 1.0)

Harald Sheid from Regional Resource Group presented materials relating to FY 22 tax rate. After explanation of the steps leading to the classification hearing and relating that to circumstances of the ratio of commercial/industrial property to residential property in Aquinnah he recommended that a residential factor of 1.0 be voted. If approved by the Bureau of Accounts this would result in a tax rate of \$6.27/\$1,000.00 of valuation. Tom Murphy made a motion that the Town adopt a residential factor of 1 as recommended by the assessors. Gary Haley seconded the motion there was no more discussion on the motion. The motion carried with 2 in favor and 0 opposed.

#### **Youth Task Force Update**

(report from Theresa Manning deferred to next meeting)

#### **Moshup Trail View Clearing**

(Approved allowing submission of permits)

Peter Temple and Carlos Montoya made a presentation that requested the Board to support applications to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission to allow clearing of “intrusive” brush on town-owned lands lying within the Moshup Trail roadside. Carlos and Peter agreed that with the Select Board authorization they would shepherd the permit applications through the appropriate boards including permits from the Commonwealth, if necessary. They indicated that if they are successful in being granted permits they would like to present a warrant article to the Annual Town meeting asking for a one-time funding of approximately \$17K for mowing and then \$2K annual appropriation for mowing the cleared sections which they will stake during the permitting process. Tom moved to allow and support submission of permit applications as presented. Gary Agreed. The motion passed.

#### **Moshup Trail land donation**

(Voted to refer question to Town Counsel)

Jessica Roddy, representing a group of landowners owning fractional interest in a +/-75’ strip of land stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to Moshup Trail that she, and others, wished to transfer to the Town in exchange for two parking spaces in the Philbin Beach parking lot. The lots, (shown on Assessor Map 6. Parcels 39 & 40), do not abut Philbin Beach. Rather they are separated by a 25’ strip of land (Map 6, Parcels 37 & 38) owned by Bill Lake and 2 other

families. Mr. Lake, who also attended the meeting indicated that if the Town were to be able to work out an arrangement with the Roddy group then he would consider donating his land to the Town as well. Mr. Lake noted that one of the three owners was “reluctant” to make the transfer, but he would approach them again. Together the parcels would seem to present an option allowing for expansion of parking of the Philbin Beach parking lot. The discussion revealed that a prior attempt by the Roddy group to donate the land was unsuccessful because of deed restrictions on the Philbin land that stated the land is to be used for parking “for residents of Gay Head only.” It was suggested by Peter Temple, who was involved in the prior attempt to transfer the Roddy property, that this may be solved by creating additional parking space (not within the Philbin land) and a separate entrance/exit onto Moshup Trail. Tom moved to refer the question to Town Counsel, Gary agreed the vote was unanimous.

#### Housing Bank

(Agreed to place article seeking to create a M.V. Housing Bank on Annual Meeting)  
A group of Island residents led by Julie Fay, co-chair of the Coalition to Create a Martha’s Vineyard Housing Bank, presented an warrant article to be placed on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in May. There was not a lot of discussion before Tom moved to place the warrant article before town voters. Gary seconded the motion and the vote was approved 2-0.

#### Vineyard School Superintendent

(voted to enter a intermunicipal agreement with West Tisbury and Chilmark supporting Chilmark bond issue)

Superintendent Matt D’Andrea and Mark Friedman made a request that the Select Board agree to a funding agreement with the towns of Chilmark and West Tisbury that would allow for the installation of a upgrade and repair of the HVAC system at the Chilmark School. Chilmark would include the cost associated with the upgrade in a bond borrowing that will save the Up-Island Regional School District money over a straight borrowing of funds. Cost to Aquinnah under the bond issue scenario would be approximately \$9,500.00/year. Tom Murphy made a motion for the Select Board to enter an inter-municipal agreement with the Up-Island Regional School District with the Towns of Aquinnah that the Town of Chilmark related to the financing of the remaining costs of installation of a HVAC system at the Chilmark School. Gary Haley seconded the motion then motion was approved 2 in favor, none opposed.

#### Family Scallop Season

(Voted to open December 2, 2021)

At the recommendation of the Shellfish Committee the Board voted 2-0 to open Menemsha Pond for family permits (1 bushel per week per family) on December 2, 2021 provided the Shellfish Constable posts notice at the Head of the Pond and West Basin.

Next meeting December 14, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

