

Approved 6/29/11
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, June 15, 2011 4:30 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Richard Knabel, Cindy Mitchell, Jen Rand-Town Administrator, Pam Thors-Adm. Asst., Ernie Mendenhall –Building Inspector, Ginny Jones, Bob and Barbara Day, Joan Ames, Linda Hearn, Bob Potts, Richard Hammond, Jim Powell, Dale McClure, Shirley Mayhew, Prudy Burt, Tara Whiting

Minutes: *R. Knabel made a motion to approve the minutes of June 1, 2011. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion to approve with corrections was unanimous.*

Agricultural Society re: allowed uses at the Hall:

Skipper disclosed his various affiliations as reasons for abstaining.

Dale McClure, Agricultural Society President, stated that he was there because he and other members felt that the events taking place at the Hall were moving close to the line as far as what is allowed in the Agricultural Preservation Restriction. He explained that they are interested in purchasing an adjoining property and that income from events is increasingly important. He stated that the Hall has really become an island community center. He went on to list the many events that have taken place there in the past year saying that birthday celebrations and celebrations of the life have become the type of activity most requested. He stated that they have had to turn down a lot of requests, the most lucrative being weddings. They are limited to 7 per year and have adhered to that part of the APR. Richard asked if they are requesting permission to hold more weddings there. Dale said that he is really trying to feel the Board out. He said that they want to serve the community but also want to be good neighbors. He asked about re-zoning. He stated that the point he is trying to make is that they are trying to manage but realize that they are pushing the envelope and want to make sure that the Board is comfortable with what is being allowed. Richard stated that the Agricultural Society has been a good neighbor and that he has had no complaints. He said that he recalls the meeting in 1998 where the permitted uses were discussed. He asked if the agreement is between the Agricultural Society and the Woods family. He said that the bottom line is Zoning. Cindy echoed Richard's comments about the Society as a neighbor and said that it is a good time to address the APR. Richard stated that talking about re-zoning was going too fast and that talking to the neighbors and the community should be the first step. Dale thanked the Board for the chance to voice his concerns on behalf of the Agricultural Society.

Skipper asked for Public Comment and Prudy Burt reminded the Board of Selectmen that the APR is an agreement co-held with the Conservation Commission and the Vineyard Conservation Society. She said that she wonders how the list of uses has adhered to the agreement. She said that she thinks that weddings and festivals are permitted within the APR but that birthdays and funerals may not be.

Ginny Jones said that the APR and the zoning issues are very different and need to be approached in different ways. She said that she has spoken to the Woods family and that they are very interested in these issues. She thinks that the first step in the process should be to speak with them. In closing, Dale suggested a meeting with neighbors and the Woods family at the Agricultural Hall.

Mill Pond dam gift to town: Jen said that she told the Garden Club that the town would continue on with the insurance and care of the dam and that the article to accept the gift would be on the next Town Meeting Warrant. Skipper said that we definitely want to proceed with acceptance of this gift to the town.

Taxi Seatbelt Regulations: Skipper spoke about the fact that taxis are exempt from the laws regarding child safety seats in vehicles. He would like to recommend that the taxis be required to comply with the state's child safety regulations. Richard asked whether the other island towns required this compliance. Jen said that this issue has not been addressed in the other towns. Richard suggested that this is really an island wide issue. Jen said that it had been on the agenda of the All Island Selectmen Association. Skipper said that he would at least like to see a public hearing on the matter. Cindy asked if they could hold a hearing and invite the other island towns. Richard asked if legally the town could adopt a requirement such as this. Jen said that usually the town's requirements can be more restrictive than the state's. Richard said that he felt that this needs to be an island wide discussion. Cindy said that she would like information about other towns in the state. All agreed that more information was needed to proceed.

Library Building Committee: The letter from Linda Hearn, Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees was discussed. She asked the Board to approve the appointment of Erik Lowe to the Library Building Committee.

R. Knabel made a motion to approve the appointment. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Fence Viewers-Jim Powell: Jim recommended that the Board approve the appointment of Richard Hammond as the third fence viewer. Skipper said that the positions are usually advertised before an appointment is made. Richard stated that he would prefer to be consistent. Jen will advertise the position and the Board will make the appointment at the appropriate time. Jim added that he hopes the Town will utilize the fence viewers as another set of eyes when a property needs to be inspected to aid in conflict resolution.

Beer and Wine Legislation, Can it be split?: Skipper explained that he feels that the issue is really made up of two separate questions and that they should be dealt with individually. He would like to ask the state to consider the issues separately. Cindy said that the final vote at Town Meeting was to go forward with both issues together. She questioned the legality of making such a change. Richard concurred, stating that he felt that they have to support the article voted at Town Meeting. Ginny Jones said that this Town Meeting vote represents a major change for the town and that by the time the vote was taken, it was very late and a lot of people had already left. She said that the

agreement was to hold a public forum on the issue and that hasn't happened yet. She said that she had spoken to Tim Madden and told him that a forum had not taken place yet and that he was concerned. Cindy said that a public forum was something that the Board was working on. Ginny said that she talked to him about considering the issues separately and his reply was that he would do whatever he can to find out if this may be done. Prudy Burt spoke in support of the idea as a way to clarify the issue which, she feels, was confusing at Town Meeting. Cindy mentioned again the legality of the change being suggested. Richard suggested that the question be put before Town Counsel.

Letter to Federal representatives re: Social Security & Veteran's Services on the Island:

S. Manter made a motion to send the letter. R. Knabel seconded the motion (pending discussion).

Cindy stated that this is a much bigger problem on the island. She said that there is no place for a Veteran to receive primary care. She will amend the letter.

The vote to send an amended letter was unanimous in favor.

Rotary at blinker-referral to Martha's Vineyard Commission: Richard said that he thinks that the three surrounding towns should have broader input in what is done at the blinker considering that access to the hospital is through that intersection. The letter that he wrote suggests that the project be referred to the Commission as a DRI. Skipper said that he is uncomfortable referring a project to the Martha's Vineyard Commission when it is not in West Tisbury.

C. Mitchell made a motion to approve referring the project to the Martha's Vineyard Commission as a DRI. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was C. Mitchell and R. Knabel in favor and S. Manter opposed.

Joan Jenkinson-73.3 hours vacation carry over:

S. Manter made a motion to approve the vacation carry over. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Old Business: Greenlands dirtbikes: To be continued

Public Comment: Shirley Mayhew read her letter to the Board which suggests that the Veteran's Memorial Stone at the triangle be moved to the Town Hall where it can be more safely viewed and appreciated. She mentioned that only three of the twenty one veteran's whose names appear on the stone are living and that a Veteran's Day commemoration of their service at the new site might be a fitting tribute.

R. Knabel made a motion to adjourn. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:23 pm.