

**Approved 8/30/17**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, July 26, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 4:55 pm**

**Present:** Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Kent Healy, Jennifer Rand

**Also Present:** Jennifer Passafiume, Dan Larkosh, Bill Veno, Tucker Hubbell, Clare Harrington, Doug Ruskin, Dan Doyle, Kate Warner, Kathy Logue, Heather Hamacek, Rich Salzburg

**Farmer's Market Traffic:** Kate Warner said she felt the traffic resulting from the Farmer's Market has become too much for the center of town to handle. She noted on the Fourth of July the traffic was backed up way out of town towards Edgartown. She was wondering if changes could be made to the location of the police officer to help manage traffic. She also wondered if traffic flow could be adjusted in some way. Jen said she had met with Funi Burdick, Director of the Preservation Trust, that day and the Market was one of the items they discussed. Funi expressed an interest in finding a way to make the market work on the site and said she is happy to work to solve the problem. Skipper noted that when the discussion came up a couple years ago the Selectmen left it to the organizers to decide how they wished to proceed. He suggested that Jen and Kate meet with the Market, Ms. Burdick and the Police Chief to come up with a solution. Cindy said she would like to ask the Market to revisit the question of moving. The Ag. Hall has a lot of space and their mission is to promote agriculture. The market could be expanded in a new space to be educational as well as retail. She thought the Market could work with the Ag Hall and Island Grown Foods to have a visioning session on how they could expand and work together in a new space. Jen was asked to convey the Board's thoughts to the Market organizers.

**Triathlon:** *K. Healy motioned approve the 9/10/17 Triathlon, which will follow the same course through West Tisbury as years past. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Policy:** Kathy explained that the Town has been encouraged to have a written policy for OPEB funding by Bond Counsel among others. She said that the Town was close to meeting the policy already so it would not be a burdensome policy to adopt. Skipper thanks the Financial Management Team for setting such a high bar for the town's finances.

*C. Mitchell motioned to adopt the following policy: 1) To gradually increase annual contributions to the OPEB Trust such that we reach the Normal Cost from the most recent actuarial study for FY2019. 2) To switch to fully funding the ARC when our pension liability is fully funded. (The Dukes County contributory Retirement System is currently scheduled to be fully funded by FY2032.) K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**NStar Public Hearing – 93 Dr. Fisher Road:** Skipper read the public notice and noted the only piece of the service under discussion was Old Stage Road, Dr. Fisher Road was private and the Board had no jurisdiction.

*K. Healy motioned to open the public hearing and continue until 8/9/17. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Inspector Fees:** Skipper said that he was confused why the inspectors were paid through payroll. Kathy said the IRS and State are both very clear about what constitutes employee status and the inspectors meet those standards as they are directed by the Building Inspector, and the training classes are paid for by the town. She added that when paid under town payroll they also are covered by worker's compensation and the town's liability insurances. She said that that one inspector has worked for the town since before 1986, which requires that he be paid medicare. Skipper thanked Kathy for her explanation, but said he still didn't think the homeowner should be charged fees for inspections as their taxes should cover those services the same way their taxes cover animal control or fire protection. Cindy said the question in front of the Board was whether the fees should cover the entirety of the expenses incurred by the Town. Kent said he didn't think there should be a connection between the fees and the cost for the town to provide the fees. Doug said he disagreed that the taxes cover the work done; he said that not everyone needs the service so those who do should pay for it. He asked that the Finance Committee have an opportunity to weigh in on the subject. Skipper said that the work would generally result in a higher appraisal and thus the homeowner would pay higher taxes. Cindy said she didn't think the fees should cover all the expenses, but should cover the permitting software fees. The Board decided by consensus to take no action to raise the fees.

**Mill Pond Plaque:** Jen explained that the Friends of the Mill Pond had declined to pay the balance of Alan Gowell's bill, beyond what they had raised for the Mill Pond plaque and stone leaving an unpaid balance of around \$1,100. Cindy asked if the town had a moral obligation to pay Alan the balance of the amount due. She noted the Mill Brook Watershed Committee felt the plaque was inappropriate so she was sensitive to that concern also. Skipper said he did not think this was a town issue, he said he was concerned about setting a precedent and he didn't feel comfortable using tax dollars to pay for what was a private project. Cindy said she was torn, Alan does a lot for the town and the Selectmen do have a discretionary fund. Doug asked if it could go on the next warrant for a town meeting. Skipper said that was a good solution. The Board said they would consider that approach when the next meeting comes around.

**Speed Limit Study:** Jen said that the Highway Superintendent and the Police Chief were recommended a speed limit study to determine what the posted speed limits should be on town roads. She noted that when speaking with the State she was told that once the study was done and recommendations sent to Boston the Town would have no ability to challenge the speed limits that were set. The Board asked Jen to pursue the process and get further clarity on how much input can be given by the Selectmen. Bill Veno said the Commission would help where they could.

**Event Permit – Islander's Write:** *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the Islander's Write Event on 8/13/17 & 8/14/17 at the Grange from 7:00-9:30 pm on day 1 and 7:30am-5:00 pm on day two. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Event Permit & 1 Day Beer & Wine– Red Pony Farm Rising Tide Fundraiser:** *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the Fundraiser and 1 Day Beer & Wine permit on 8/4/17 at Red Pony Farm from 5:00-8:00 pm. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**WT Library Foundation Donation:** *K. Healy motioned to accept with thanks a donation of \$590 to cover the expenses of monthly art exhibits. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Personnel Board Appointment:** *C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Leon Brathwaite to the Personnel Board for three years. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Howes House Roof:** Jen told the Board she was going to apply to the Historic District to replace the roof of the Howes House. She said there had been a question of the need to remove the chimney due to poor construction but Kent had said it was safe and could remain.

**Eversource Rate Hearing:** *C. Mitchell motioned to sign the letter/testimony for the Department of Public Utilities regarding the loss of value of net metering credits. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Merged Lot Policy:** Kent said there were other ways for an applicant to prove a lot's status if merged or not besides a letter from an attorney. He said the ZBA has established status before and he noted that if Joe made a mistake in the status the Selectmen would back him up. Skipper said the intent of the policy was to put the burden on the applicant to prove the lot's status. Tucker said he agreed with Kent, he said the Zoning Board had allowed other forms of documentation in the past. The policy was changed to read:

*In the case of merged lot questions the applicant shall provide a letter, with supporting documentation, from an attorney or other reliable sources that demonstrates the lot's status as merged or not.*