

Approved 4/13/16
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, March 30, 2016 4:30 p.m. – 5:46 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Cindy Mitchell, Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter, Jennifer Rand

Also Present: Bill Veno, Susan Silk, Bruce Stone, Joan Ames, Heather Hamacek

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 2/17/16, 2/24/16 & 3/2/16, with amendments to the March minutes. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor with the exception of 2/24/16, from which SM abstained.*

School District Task Force Final Report: Susan said the committee had met 8 times, she noted that the work done by Bruce Stone was excellent, and very helpful. The final recommendation from the committee was to suggest that the three town Boards of Selectmen meet to discuss a change to the regional funding formula to shift more of the cost of the Chilmark School back to Chilmark. Cindy said the report was excellent; she appreciated the simplicity of the focus, and thought the recommendation was particularly useful when you consider there are 2 school committee members on the committee, one from Chilmark. She felt this might mean the recommendations will move forward in each town. Susan said the one thing that was not in the report was a timeframe for implementation of their recommendation, but the committee felt there was a sense of urgency to the process. Skipper asked that it be place on the agenda for next week as he hadn't read it yet.

MV Land Bank Trail from Brandy Brow across Welles Property: Bill said the Land Bank had finalized an easement across the Welles property that would now connect Brandy Brow and town center. He distributed a map showing where the trail would go, and proposed signage for the trail. He noted that the current layout of the landscaped area in front by the road in front of the Library/Howes House parking lot would cause walkers to cross the road at a dangerous spot. He said he had met with Librarian Beth Kramer and Trustee Linda Hearn to discuss moving the fence a bit and possibly adding stones to indicate where to walk. He said the Land Bank would pay for those alterations. The Board felt there were too many signs. Bill said they may not all be needed; he asked if the Board wanted directional signs pointing people to the Youth Hostel or Mill Pond. They said they did not think that would be necessary. Bill also suggested a sign could go at the Mill Pond to direct people to the trail, he said the Conservation Commission does not want any signs at Brandy Brow. Jen said that Rez Williams has asked for a crosswalk from the Mill Pond to Brandy Brow, if the Selectmen wished to pursue that she said a request for a safety study would need to be made to Mass Highway. She added she was skeptical they would grant a crosswalk in this location. The Board said they would hold off on that for now, and asked Bill to bring back a mock-up of the signs before putting them up.

S. Manter motioned to allow the Land Bank to move the town fence for trail access. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Planning Board Access to Counsel: *S. Manter motioned to authorize the Planning Board access to counsel regarding the Open Space Bylaw. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.* Skipper asked that Jen get more information about the request.

Cultural Council Appointment: *S. Manter motioned to appoint Niki Patton and Rob Hauck to the Cultural Council. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Poet Laureate Appointment: *S. Manter motioned to appoint Emma Young to the position of Poet Laureate. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Affordable Housing Committee Appointment: *R. Knabel motioned to appoint Susan Feller as a full member and Angela Prout as an associate member to the Affordable Housing Committee. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Garden Club Plant Sale Event Permit: *S. Manter motioned to allow the annual plant sale on 5/28 & 5/29 with appropriate town sign-offs. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Sheet Metal Legislation: Skipper said it was difficult to support legislation when you don't know what the changes could be once the legislature takes action. Cindy said we could write in support of the current language. Richard said he was in favor of it, due to the burdensome nature of the current requirements.

S. Manter motioned to write a letter of support for House bill #3952. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Town Meeting Warrant: The Board discussed the articles they planned to speak to, and any amendments they needed to make. Jen gave them a sheet detailing each to have at town meeting.