

Select Board Report 2022

Renovations, funding formulas, and food trucks were some of the topics we dealt with in 2022.

The West Tisbury Housing Bank Committee morphed into the island wide Coalition to Create a MV Housing Bank with an article on the Annual Town Meeting for proposed legislation called the Act Establishing the Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank.

The Tiah's Cove culvert finally got its repairs done in April.

We began to look at the 401 State road project for housing. The project has hit a few snags along the way, but we are continuing to work with Island Housing Trust towards more affordable housing in town.

Early in the year a Tree Advisory Committee was formed to work with the Tree Warden to replace and plant new trees around town. They worked closely with Polly Hill Arboretum to locate and note historic, important trees in town, determine the best locations for replacements, and the best tree choices for longevity. They have an article before Town meeting for CPC money to continue this project.

In February the talks finally began with all of the island towns for the MV Regional High School funding formula. After many meetings it was nearly the end of the year before a formula that everyone was happy with was finalized, and in late October the building committee was formed with Skipper Manter representing West Tisbury.

In April the topic of food trucks started to appear on our radar. In May we met with the Planning Board to discuss incidental retail sales and the definition of fast food. It was decided that we would need to put regulations in place, and public hearings were held in July. Regulations were drawn up and fine-tuned and voted into place in late July, but it became apparent that zoning bylaw changes still needed to be made regarding retail sales and a committee was formed to work on amendments and present them to the voters at Annual Town meeting in the spring of 2023.

The Vineyard Transit Authority approached us about installing an electric bus charging station at the town hall bus stop. The project will take some time and there will be temporary equipment in place until the permanent equipment is finally installed near the end of 2023

People

The loss of Tony Corday as both Animal Control Officer, fireman, friend and colleague was a huge blow. We were fortunate to hire back Kate Hoffman, who had worked as his assistant for a time, to fill his shoes as Animal Control Officer.

We said goodbye to Dawn Barnes and Meghan Montesion in the Assessor's Office and welcomed Mac Anderson as the new Assessor. At the end of the year Mary Jane Nevin joined us as his assistant and Data Collector.

Pam Thors retired as Administrative Assistant from the Zoning Board of Appeals after 29 years, and Kim Laird was hired to take her place. Jennie Gadowski joined us full time at the front desk of the Council on Aging. Amelia Smith was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Climate Advisory Committee and Energy Committee.

As of July 1st Skipper Manter retired from the Police Department after 47 years on the roster. There was a grand party thrown with food and music on a hot July afternoon and he was roasted and toasted by all.

In September we had a bit of excitement when the migrants landed on the Vineyard at the same time as our Select Board meeting. Jen Rand broke the news to us and it got picked up by the press as the situation developed. The island pulled together and did what needed doing to make these people comfortable and understood and all in all took good care of them.

We also spoke with Eversource about a project to upgrade electrical services on Panhandle and Middle roads. The project started later that fall and will be completed in the spring of 2023.

All in all it was a fairly typical year in a small town.