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To the Select Board:

6 July 2023

I am writing in my capacity as Town Moderator, and in the interest of providing voters with clear, accurate, and complete information.

There is a live version of the West Tisbury town website that is woefully out of date and incorrect, yet it is the first “hit” that appears when one uses Google to search for Town of West Tisbury:

<https://westtisbury-ma.gov/directory.htm>

An unsuspecting voter could easily visit this page and find links stating that Beth Kramer is still the director of the West Tisbury Library, that Kent Healy is still a board member of the “Selectmen’s Office,” and that the Finance Committee still includes Gary Montrowl, Doug Ruskin, Chuck Hodgkinson and Katherine Triantafillou.

It appears that this entire “zombie website,” links included, has not been updated since 2018 — yet it remains fully operational and is more prominent than the real one. There has been no attempt (that I can find) to re-direct the visitor to the new, up-to-date website. In fact, the old site contains the following advisory:

This site is updated often. Please hit your "refresh" button to ensure you are seeing the latest version.

I urge you to either consolidate the old website with the new one, or else update the advisory on the old website to redirect visitors to the new website at every link. I understand that this is probably a difficult and time-consuming task, but the consequences of ignoring this situation are very serious. It has the capacity of eroding the average citizen’s faith in transparency of local government, and reducing the average voter’s ability to participate in that government.

Sincerely,

Dan Waters
Town Moderator