

Approved 10/26/22
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Jointly with the Affordable Housing Committee
Monday October 17, 2022 5:00 pm
Via Zoom

Present: Select Persons Skipper Manter, Jessica Miller, Cynthia Mitchell and Town Administrator Jen Rand

Affordable Housing Committee: Larry Schubert, Ted Jochsberger, Rise Terney, Jeffrey Dubard, Jim Klingensmith and Rhonda Conley (Michael and Amy absent)

Others: Bernadette Lyons, Susan Silk, Ms.'s Rosenthal and Prazich (abutters to 401 State Rd) Liz Volchok, Kimberly Angell, John Abrams, Julius Lowe, Thomas Humphrey, Eunki Seonwoo and other members of the public who did not speak.

Cindy called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:01 pm

Ted Jochsberger called the Affordable Housing Committee to order.

New Business:

- **Discussion about Affordable Housing Committee process issues, roles and responsibilities:**

Cindy started out by re-stating as was said at the September 28th meeting that despite some of the issues they are there to discuss tonight, no one can say that the AHC has not done a fantastic job of producing meaningful results. She said it needs to be recognized by all. There are 2 projects that are of issue at the moment:

- **215 Rock Pond Rd:**

The issue is the process regarding certain documents that had been drafted by counsel regarding the enforcement of the covenant, and sent to the property owners, but had not been submitted to the committee for an official vote to send. The Select Board is not challenging the AHC right to send those documents, just the way it had been done. Rhonda says that regardless of the issues, the process is going forward and she had heard from the owner just that day.

- **401 State Rd:**

One of the issues with this project as has come to light in the last meeting and in correspondences received, is the perceived rudeness of some AHC members. Cindy suggested that going forward, the committee members should always ere on the side of diplomacy so that there is less chance of comments being perceived as rude.

Jen said that some of the AHC meetings she has been at she felt very uncomfortable and they seemed chaotic and ‘aggressively rude’ to her. She thought that getting everyone together in a room to look at plans may work better and be more productive. They need to come up with a way to work in partnership with IHT as they chose them and do not want to have to start the process all over again. Ted apologized for any rudeness on his part and agreed that IHT has been a wonderful partner. He also liked the idea of meeting in person.

There was discussion about a working group or sub committee within the AHC that includes members from Island Housing Trust and perhaps South Mountain and possibly abutters. Jen pointed out that a sub-committee is fine but all discussion must be done publicly with posted agendas and minutes and a quorum present as this project has been voted on and payed for by the townspeople. Ideas were given for meetings and keeping things on topic and running smoothly.

Larry felt that there were two different ‘camps’ in the AHC; some that like to look at the bigger picture and some that are more interested in the details. He thinks they have gotten bogged down and frustrated with the details.

John Abrams pointed out that they had presented a concept, not a finished design with the idea to develop a more complete design together with the town and IHT. The response to that conceptual design was the reason they had pulled out. He agrees that getting together in a room to discuss the plans would be a good idea.

Julius Lowe spoke about Michael Colanari and his personal feelings on how he runs meetings. He feels Mike is the main problem.

After all the discussion it was thought that it had been a great meeting. Cindy mentioned that if they do go to meeting in person that they try to do hybrid meetings so that the abutters and others who can’t be present can still participate. Jen offered to train anyone on the AHC who is tech savvy on the hybrid system at Town Hall. Jeffrey Dubard volunteered to be that person.

Old Business: There was none.

Correspondence:

- T. Jochsberger
- Rosenthal, Prazich - 2 Letters
- Terney

With no further business to attend to the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant