

Approved 1/24/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 17, 2024 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for part or all of the meeting: Richard Andre, Luke Lefeber, Kate Hoffman, Phebe Bates, Simon Bollin, Deborah Potter, Wendy Brough, Casey Blum, Jeffrey Dubard, Alexandra Pratt, Wanda Higgins, Kim Angell, Eunki Seonwoo, Thomas Humphrey, Janice Haynes and other members of the public that did not speak.

Skipper called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Minutes:

- **January 10, 2024:** Skipper had a couple of small additions.

Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of January 10, 2024 as amended. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **Assistant ACO Appointment - Phebe Bates Grade 3 Step 1:**

Kate introduced Phebe and said she is excited to have her on board. Phebe was welcomed.

Jessica moved to appoint Phebe Bates as Assistant ACO at Grade 3, Step 1. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Oak Bluffs Request for a Warrant Article re: Hospital Coastal Zone Management Resiliency Project:**

Deb Potter spoke to explain the request. They have gotten a grant and want to do a study on the hospital access roads during storm events. They are looking for ways to involve all the towns in island wide projects. She said they are not entering in to this lightly. If the other towns do not all vote to participate Oak Bluffs will be pursuing the funding themselves and will do the study either way. The board thought it was a good idea.

Cindy moved to approve the article for the ATM warrant. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Vineyard Power Re; Library Solar Project:**

Richard and Luke explained the project. This is the CVEC round 6 reissue. There is about \$4 million to distribute over 15 years and they are looking at the library solar project because the Library has been designated a cooling shelter and also public water supply during power outages. They are working on a grant agreement with Vineyard Power. Skipper asked about battery storage and Richard said it would be outside at the library and about the size of a generator. They spoke about eventually having the Howes House and library on the same generator and hooking the whole campus together power wise.

The are looking to formalize the grant agreement. The town will have to agree to the proposal from CVEC and then it will need to go to counsel. They will be meeting with the Energy Committee in February. No town funds will need to be appropriated. They were thanked for the presentation and think it's a great project.

- **Affordable Housing Committee Discussion re: Committee Dysfunction and Possible Replacement of Members:**

Skipper spoke about the ADU project and the beginning of the issues with the committee. Cindy feels that the new administrator needs more guidance and is concerned about the missed meetings, late postings and budget. The whole board is concerned about the AHC functioning as affordable housing is important. They asked Jeffrey to speak to it and he acknowledged the problems. He said he never to be the chair and knows it's not his forte. He would welcome new members. Skipper pointed out that new members would be associate and non-voting members. Jeffrey hopes that Jessica can somehow take over as chair and it will be the first order of business at their next meeting. Simon Bollin volunteered to step back to be an associate member to allow Jessica to be a full member. He was thanked by the board and it was agreed that the AHC needs to do the restructuring themselves. Cindy asked that the members really work with the administrator too.

- **Affordable Housing Committee Appointments: Kim Angell & Jessica Miller:**

Both Kim and Jessica have been recommended by the AHC. Kim would be the first associate and Jessica second, for voting purposes. They were both thanked for their willingness to step up. Cindy reiterated that the new members have actually been great. Wanda apologized for her issues and asked for input from the Select Board. She was told that the new chair of the AHC will give her input.

Cindy moved to appoint Kim Angell & Jessica Miller as associate members on the Affordable Housing Committee. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Town Reports – Select Board & Cemetery:**

Cindy had a few corrections and additions, but otherwise thought both reports were great.

Jessica moved to approve the Select Board & Cemetery reports as amended. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Topics Not Anticipated: There were none.

Old Business:

- **140 Merry Farm Rd Conservation Restriction:**

They had received nothing from Jeffrey by the deadline and he now says that he has decided to go in another direction and the Conservation Restriction is not necessary. He is withdrawing the request.

Jessica moved to accept the withdrawal. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Correspondence:

- **K. Sterling & B. Reeves Re: CR at Merry Farm Rd:**

Public Comment: Casey Blum asked about the plan for the CR and was referred to the Planning Board to answer her questions..

With no further business to discuss, Cindy moved adjourn the meeting. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant*