

Approved 12/20/23
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 13, 2023 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for part or all of the meeting: Sue Hruby, Elizabeth Durkee, Kathy Kinsman, Tara Whiting-Wells, Jeffrey Dubard, Julius Lowe, Michael Colaneri, Nicola Blake, Kathy Logue, Meghan Gombos, Kate Warner, Teri Bernert, Paddy Moore, Keith McGuire, Bernadette Lyons, Kim Angell, Daniel Greenman, Thomas Humphrey and by phone other members of the public that were not identified by name and did not speak.

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

Minutes:

- **November 29, 2023 Executive Session (Vote to Approve & Release) and December 6, 2023.**

Regarding the December 6th minutes, Jessica had one small correction to the wording of the Highway Superintendents stipend discussion.

Jessica moved to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2023 as amended. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Regarding the November 29, 2023 Executive Session Minutes, Skipper mentioned that they should go back in to E.S. to approve but didn't think it was necessary in this case. No edits or corrections offered. Skipper summarized what they were about (the Stoney Hill lots)

Cindy moved to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 29, 2023. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **De-Brief of Town Meeting with Members of the Affordable Housing Committee re: the ADU Program:**

Skipper said that in general, the board supported the concept of what the AHC is trying to do but they were not pleased with how it was presented at town meeting and feel it was a disappointing failure. They want to discuss where do they go from here? Jeffrey agreed that there was a lack of clarity and understanding. He said one of the big areas of question was the program administration. They are working on clarifying the responsibilities of that

position. They intend to have a series of 3 community meetings starting in January to get the public involved more than they did before. Skipper pointed out that the warrant will close on February 6th, and if they have the article submitted and continue to have meetings they will not be able to make any changes based on feedback from the public. Jeffrey believes they have already received a lot of feedback and the public meetings are more about getting understanding for the public of the program. The board feels that they would be rushing things again to have this ready for ATM and it might be better to give people some time 'to get the sour taste out of their mouths' before bringing it back so soon. They need to have more public meetings and the support of other boards and committees too. Sue Hruby urged the AHC work with the Visioning Committee to gather data regarding housing and also get their info out to the voters and others agreed that was a good idea. Julius Lowe spoke about the immediacy of the housing issue. Jeffrey says the AHC intends to go forward with the article and hopes they can change the board's mind. No action taken.

- **Liz Durkee & Meghan Gombos: Climate Action Plan Update, MVP 2.0 program and upcoming NOAA grant application:**

Liz and Meghan spoke about 3 climate issues and shared a slide presentation. They shared the updated Climate Action Plan and spoke about the implementation in 6 areas. They also spoke about the next steps of the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) and a couple of the grants they will be able to apply for. One is a NOAA Regional Resilience Grant. They have submitted a letter of intent that has passed the first approval and they explained the proposal. They are looking for commitment from the towns for support and a letter of collaboration. If the grant is awarded they will be using money available to hire a representative of each town to be involved. Since the projects they are proposing are not in West Tisbury at this time Jen asked what her role as Town Administrator would be and Meghan explained that it's mostly to have the town engaged since the projects picked effect the whole island. The board thanked them for the presentation and the work they are doing. No action taken.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Jen shared that the car chargers have been turned off and roped off to indicate they are out of service. The heads will be removed eventually.
- Michael Colaneri made the board aware that there will be a presentation on the future of assessing in January.
- Skipper thanked the Parks and Rec department and everyone who helped set up the holiday party last week. He will also be traveling during next weeks meeting and asked the Vice-chair to hold the meeting for him. He also mentioned that there will be egg nog served at his house, 4 Briarwood Lane on Thursday 12/21.
- Keith McGuire from Island Housing Trust wants to speak jointly with the AHC and the Select Board regarding CPC funding for the 401 State Rd project. Skipper said now is not

the time, it needs to be an agenda item. He will wait to hear from them as to when he's on the agenda

- Kim Angell let the board know that the CCHMV, the Housing Bank committee will be coming to them to ask for testimony again for a hearing in January.

Old Business:

- Flag Policy & Response to Request:
They got a proposed policy from counsel and shared it on screen. Similar policies are in many other towns. The board made a few small wording changes but were basically happy with it. They also authorized the Town Administrator to work with town counsel to respond to the original email request to fly a new flag.

Cindy moved to approve the Town of West Tisbury Flag Policy as presented by counsel and amended here in meeting, to take effect starting December 14, 2023. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- Cemetery Fence Update:
Jen did some research with the MV Museum regarding the history of the fence and they found that the fence has likely been up since sometime between 1880 and 1920 when the road was reconfigured. She is looking for confirmation from the board that they want to apply to the HDC to remove a majority of the fence along State Rd, leaving sections at either side of the gate. Discussion again about replacing or removing and the costs, but in the end the board was good with the request to apply to the HDC.

Correspondence:

- B. Phear re: ADU:
Cindy thought it was a good letter worth reading and wanted Jen to forward it on to the AHC to read.

Public Comment:

- Jen went back to the discussion earlier with Keith from IHT and wondered if it should be a meeting with the Affordable Housing Trust rather than the Select Board? After discussion the board agreed and Skipper will let Wanda know for the next meeting which should be in January

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:49 pm

*Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant*