

Approved 4/29/20
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING –joint meeting with other Island Towns, Selectmen, Town
Admins. And Board of Health.

3/23/20

***Phone conference call meeting from transcript so some attendees may not be listed if they did not speak.**

Present: WT Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Kent Healy, Jen Rand, Bob Whritenour, Megan Lancaster, Dave Doneski, Brian Packish OB Selectman, James Malkin, Maura Valley BOH, James Hagerty, Jay Grande VH Admin, Matthew Poole, Marina Lent CH BOH, Jeff Madison AQ Town Admin, Omar Johnson WT BOH, Erik Lowe WT BOH, Jim Newman, Melinda Loberg, Martina Thornton County Manager, Ron Rappaport, Town Counsel

Ron Whritenour called the meeting to order.

He said that, most importantly, what we want is to hear from each one of the communities with respect to the proposed orders. He explained how they had been reading all weekend about the emergency order that was adopted by the town of Nantucket and also the orders given by the Governor. He said the most important thing that we need to do is to interpret both of those orders together and attempt to identify some of the areas that were left out of the governor's order. He suggested that maybe we could simplify the whole process a little bit, rather than adopting an entirely new 10 page order, by analyzing how we could strengthen what the government has done for our communities and have something that's meaningful.

He asked Brian Packish to speak on his thoughts on the proposed construction ban. He spoke and summed up to say that he thought they should lean towards adopting a policy very similar to Nantucket's. It seems to be more specific to our island lifestyle coming from another island.

James Malkin said that the impression he got from the SSA was that there were a lot of legal issues with trying to restrict travel. He agreed with Brian that we have to be more restrictive than the governor's order. He thinks the Nantucket order is a definitely a start.

More discussion about the State not having the ability to restrict travel on a local level and what the SSA could or would do. Someone stated that perhaps they could request to limit travel for non-residents or something like that and that might avoid the legal issue..

More discussion regarding the Stay at Home order vs. the Construction ban.

Talked about what businesses should be open and which should not, the number allowed for recreational gatherings, how to restrict the number of people in grocery stores at a time.

Discussion regarding enforcement issues. It was suggested that the point of these orders was to identify and provide responsible courses of action for local residents and publicize them. Ron believed that the voluntary compliance rate would be quite high, and that they shouldn't get hung up on the impossible logistical problems of enforcement.

Omar said that he thinks that people want to be safe and that they wouldn't have a problem with complying with things like staying in their car and limiting the number of people in a store. Questions on what were considered essential services. It was decided that the working group would determine what are the essential services allowed.

Someone pointed out that they would need to come up with procedures for allowing people to get back to work when this was over.

It was emphasized that the BOS, BOH and Town Administrators should work together to make this a regional effort and a collaborative effort.

It was suggested to form a working group that will work with the two lawyers, town administrators and have a report by 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, to come up with a simplified document by the next day. It would be similar to the Nantucket order and adjusted as necessary if the Governor made more changes. It was agreed that we want to be more restrictive than the governor's orders. It would be sent to each town BOS to be voted.