

Approved 3/27/19
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, March 6, 2019 4:30 p.m. – 5:50 pm

Present: Selectmen Cindy Mitchell, Skipper Manter, Kent Healy, Jen Rand
Also Present: Bruce Stone, Doug Ruskin, Geraldine Brooks, Holly Pretsky

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 2/13/19. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Conservation Commission Appointment: Geraldine Brooks said she had been in front of the commission three times since moving to town and was impressed with the work they do. Kent said she will have big shoes to fill.

S. Manter motioned to appoint Geraldine Brooks to the Conservation Commission for a 3 year term. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Short Term Rental Forum: Cindy said the forum was planned for April 3rd at 5:00 during the regular Selectmen’s meeting. It would be held in the Library Community Room. She said she thought it important that the Financial Management Team be present and prepared to present their analysis of why they made the recommendation for 6% tax. Bruce asked who the intended audience was. Cindy said taxpayers.

Housing Bank Petition Article: Cindy said that the Selectmen in Oak Bluffs, Edgartown and Tisbury had written letters indicating their lack of support for the Housing Bank article. Bruce said that the second petition article asking voters to approve the rental tax funding proposal does not seem to work as written, it mentions “appropriation” of funds, and the Department of Revenue defines appropriation as a town meeting vote. Also, the way the Housing Bank language is written it would appear that if three towns approve this it will go into effect and West Tisbury would have to pay even if they vote the Housing Bank down. Doug said the Housing Bank legislation was written with the understanding that the language may need to be changed by the legislators to make it all legal. Cindy asked how the Housing Bank Committee felt now that there doesn’t seem to be support from some of the town’s selectmen. Doug said they were not surprised by the lack of support but the committee is frustrated by the lack of progress on larger project similar to Morgan Woods. He said they did not think they should table the article until it had more discussion at the town level. Bruce said he thought it would be unfortunate if the entire idea failed because people were not comfortable with the funding mechanism. Doug said the time to dedicate the money is now before towns put it in their budgets and its not available any more. Kent said he didn’t think throwing money at the problem was the solution, he said he rather see the money stay with the town and have the town work towards zoning changes to accommodate a variety of housing types. Cindy said the town had adopted a Housing Production Plan, this was one of the tools mentioned, but not the only one to address the housing problem, zoning is another piece, she said it would be helpful to understand how the Housing Bank fits into the “grid” of solutions. Skipper said he agreed that zoning was key. Half acre lots should be allowed, he said that conceptually the Housing Bank was a good idea, but the money should stay in the town. He didn’t think a small group of people should make the decision about how to spend that money. He also said he was opposed to 50% being allocated before understanding how much money would be raised from the tax. He thought the Housing Bank should postpone the article for a year to allow the towns to work together on the language. He asked if the towns could

directly fund projects that are not qualified under affordability guidelines. Doug said yes. He did not agree that the money should be spent only in the town when the funds were raised because housing was an island wide problem and needed to be addressed that way.

Lambert's Cove Inn Seasonal Wine & Malt License: *S. Manter motioned to renew the seasonal wine & malt license for Lambert's Cove Inn. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*