

Approved 5/8/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 1, 2024 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for all or part of the meeting: Mac Anderson, Maria McFarland, Michael Colaneri, Kim Angell, Leah Smith, Katrina Lui, Thomas Humphrey, Eunkie Seanwoo

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

New Business

Minutes: Vote to Approve:

Skipper moved to approve the minutes of April 24, 2024. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: CM & JM yea, SM abstained.

Skipper moved to approve the minutes of April 29, 2024. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor.

Visioning Update: Leah gave the board and update on the visioning program hosted by the Planning Board the previous Friday/Saturday. She said it was well attended both days had an attendance of over 100 people. She said the main topic areas that resulted from the meetings were 1) communication 2) Pond ecology/health 3) Village center 4) North Tisbury Business District 5) Diversity 6) housing/zoning 7) walkability. She said that the groups will continue to meet and they will have another full session in October. Hopefully this information will help inform the town's updated Master Plan. The Board thanked Leah and the rest of the folks involved for their efforts.

K. Logue Financial Disclosure Re: Assistant Position Applicant: Jen explained that Kathy had a limited financial connection with one of the applicants for her assistant's job. She contacted ethics who suggested she needed to file the "Disclosure by Non-Elected Municipal Employee of Financial Interest and Determined by Appointing Authority as Required by GL c. 268A, §19.

Skipper motioned that "As appointing official, as required by GL c. 268A, §19 we have reviewed the particular matter and the financial interest identified by Kathy Logue. We have determined that the financial interest is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality may expect from Ms. Logue." Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor.

Manter Pier Permit Request; 70, 104 & 174 Pond View Farm Rd: Skipper recused himself. Jen explained this is an annual request.

Cindy moved to approve the Pier Permit request. Jess seconded. Roll call vote: JM & CM in favor.

Old Business:

Residential Exemption for Tax Rate: Skipper said he had watched the meeting from the week prior when the Assessors had presented the options for the exemption. He said he struggled to shift the tax burden to the non-resident taxpayers, many of whom have lived here part time for years. He noted they have no say in the town budget and use fewer services. Cindy said her takeaway from the previous week was that the work has to start now in order for the exemption to be an option at the tax rate hearing in the fall. Her hope was once the letter went out it would generate discussion and the board can hold a public forum (or more) to here from people prior to the tax hearing. She added that she thought they had to begin the process, it would not then commit them to an outcome. Jess agreed. Leah asked if it could only impact houses of a certain value. Mac said no. Skipper asked that the letter that goes out make it clear the decision hasn't been made yet. The Assessors said they would share the letter with the Board prior to mailing it.

Response to Questions from Stoney Hill Association re: Land Purchase: The Board reviewed the letter from the Stoney Hill Association and the draft response developed by Jen. A few edits were offered and a final draft will be presented to the Board next week.

Correspondence

A. Salop re: All Island School Committee Negotiating Committee Rep Jen said that her memory last time was that the Select board did not have a member who wished to take on this role so they asked a member of the Finance Committee to do so. The board said that was a good way to go again this time so Jen will reach out to them to ask.

Executive Session Exemption #6– Re: Affordable Housing Lots Stoney Hill Association: *To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body*

At 5:30 Jess declared that open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. Skipper said he disagreed and felt the discussion should be public.

With no further business to discuss, Cindy moved to go into executive session and not return to open meeting. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: CM & JM in favor SM opposed

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator