

**Approved 5/27/20**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**May 13, 2020 4:40 pm – 5:58**  
**\*Virtual meeting\***

**Present:** Selectmen Skipper Manter, Kent Healy, Cindy Mitchell, Jen Rand

**Also Present:** Matt Gebo, Doug Ruskin, Tara Whiting Wells, Kathy Logue, Ron Rappaport, Dan Waters, Mike Bellissimo, Greg Orcutt, Russ Hartenstine, Laura Silber, Kristina West, Matt Malowski, John Rau, Bob Wasserman, Sara Dingley, Jevon, Jessica Estrella, Hunter Moorman, Amy Lilavois, Katherine O'Brien, Alexandra Rigo, Joe Tierney, Paddy Moore, Collins Havernor, Amy Upton, Jack Holmes, Rich Saltzberg, Will Sennott

Cindy called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 5/1/20. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Town Meeting:** Cindy said that in planning for a town meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> it was not clear that the gatherings rule would be relaxed to a point where it would be safe to hold the meeting. Skipper said eh thought that Town Meetings were exempt from the gatherings law. Cindy said they are, but that doesn't mean we should hold the meeting. She suggested we wait to see what the Governor releases on the 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the State's opening plan.

**Town Meeting Warrant:** Jen said that in discussions with Ron Rappaport about a need to potentially change the warrant she found out the Board can post an amended warrant. She suggested that this would be an easier way to assure the meeting did not take up the articles the Board wished to postpone until fall. It also would allow for the two personnel articles to be added as well avoiding the need for a special town meeting. She noted that Article 1, regarding elections, may need to be split off to allow the meeting to be held outside of town. Ron said he would recommend amending the warrant, once the bill passes we would know what changes need to be made regarding Article 1.

**MV Agricultural Hall:** Jen said that the School Superintendent had requested the use of the Ag. Hall for High School Graduation if other options are not available. The plan had been distributed and was a drive-in format. It was subject to approval from the Health Agent, but he would not spend time on that if the Selectmen would not allow it to happen. Kristina said the Trustees of the Ag. Society supported the request, the students have been through a lot and it would be nice to do something special for them. She said this would be a one-time event. Hunter asked if she had spoken to the neighborhood working group. Kristina said no as this had only come up two days prior. He said that is speaking with his neighbors, they noted this was an extraordinary time and this would be a nice way for the town to help out the island. He noted this was not contemplated under the current agreement and should be clearly stated it was not precedent for activities later. Joe said he felt it would fall under a community event; he noted that West Tisbury School holds their graduation there for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The students on line all expressed their deep appreciation for the Board consideration of this unique event. Skipper noted that the week prior they had

authorized the Farmer's Market to move to the site and he continues to be concerned about increased intensity of use. Kent said he understood Skipper's concerns but he felt this was a good idea, and he thought the Woods family would approve of this. He noted his grandson would be graduating this year. Skipper said he agreed that the Woods family would approve. He noted he sits on the School Board. Jen noted that Vineyard Conservation had sent an email noting that this event would fall within something they were comfortable with but noting intensity of use over time. They did note the lack of other events would help offset the impact of this one.

*S. Manter motioned to allow the use of the Ag. Hall for High School graduation provided the Board of Health signed off on the event and noting this was a one-time event. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous.*

**Farmer's Market:** Jen said the Building Inspector had asked for access to Counsel to determine if the Dover Amendment would apply to the Farmer's Market request to move to the Ag. Hall. The Ag. Society had made an argument that it would apply, and thus exempt the market from the need for a special permit. She noted that the Dover amendment gave special rights for agriculture. The market was applying for a special permit to keep the process moving in the meantime. The question revolved around who owned the property and were the members the owners. Ron Rappaport said the Ag. Society was a corporation so the members did not own it and he thought the Amendment would be a stretch but he would look into it.

**Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA):** Jen said the Board had two letters of interest, one from Bob Wasserman one from Susannah Sturgis. Bob said he thought the VTA has done a great job through the challenges they had with labor issues. He said he has extensive experience in transit and recognizes the importance of a strong system on the Island noting those that need it the most often speak up the least. He said he does take advantage of the system when going down island for errands or the boat. Susannah said she got involved last year during the labor strike. She felt there was a communication problem in that time and worked to get more transparency in the process and asked that drivers have more input especially in route planning. She said she rides the bus occasionally. The Board said they felt they had two very good candidates to choose from. At this moment Bob said he was impressed with Susanna and stepped down to offer her the seat.

*S. Manter motioned to appoint Susannah Sturgis to the VTA Board for a one year term. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous.*

**Lamberts Cove Rd Beach Parking:** Skipper said at the last Parks & Rec meeting the Committee had voted to ask the Selectmen to limit parking on Lambert's Cove Rd from Cottles first driveway toward Vineyard Haven. Right now the Cottles employees are parking in some of those spaces to accommodate their new sales system put into place during the virus shutdowns. Jen will reach out to the Cottles and try and find a resolution.

**Mill Pond Building Lease:** Jen said the Request for Proposals did allow for three year extensions and the current tenants would like to renew. She noted that a staff member had asked if we needed the space for staff to assist with social distancing. She said it would not be her preference, and there were issues with

water and septic capacity and parking. Kent said the septic capacity would be too limited to make this make sense.

*S. Manter motioned to renew the lease for a three year term. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous.*

**Bill & Payroll Warrant of 5/1/12:** *S. Manter motioned to sign the warrants of 5/1/20. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous.*

**Community Development Block Grant COVID 19 Funding:** *Skipper made a motion to participate in the Community Development Block Grant Covid 19 funding request. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous*

Adjourned 5:58 pm

*Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator*