

Approved 6/3/20  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**May 20, 2020 4:40 pm**  
**\*Virtual meeting\***

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

**Also Present:** Alexandra Pratt, Mike Bellisimo, Tara Whiting, Matt Mincone, Susanna Sturgis, Matt Gebo, Doug Ruskin, Russ Hartenstein, Laura Silber, Aaron Wilson, Lucas Thors, Mercedes Kelso, Amy Upton, Jen Maxner, Julia Celeste, Janice Haynes

Cindy called the meeting to order at 4:41 pm

Skipper motioned to approve the Minutes of May 6, 2020 Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous.

**New Business:**

**Covid-19 Update:**

- **Whether to hold Town Meeting in June:** Jen explained that on Monday the Governor released his phased roll out plan. Town Meetings are exempt. Guidelines put out allow botanical gardens and zoos, and she believes that is most comparable to what we want to do at Tabernacle. She believes our usual attendance numbers fit within this guide. She feels that we should wait to make a decision about June 23<sup>rd</sup> until Phase 2 is released (June 8<sup>th</sup>) to see if that makes it easier. Another concern is that if ATM doesn't happen before the end of the fiscal year we cannot sign annual contracts (cleaners, landscaping, etc.) Skipper said he wants to have it done by the end of June, but ultimately, it is the BOH decision. Kent agreed that it is important for ATM to happen in June. He referred to the MVRHS graduation being done at the Ag Hall and thinks we could/should do it there. Jen said she had thought of it but 1 issue would be voting. She would like to plan on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Tabernacle and have Ag Hall as plan B. The Selectmen all agreed.
- **Covid-19 Testing update:** Cindy gave an update speaking as CEO of Island Health Care, not as WT Selectman. Drive thru testing will start on May 28<sup>th</sup> as a 'soft opening' for priority groups such as essential workers, first responders, grocery store workers, medical and dental personal. After a few weeks they will have a call in center for the general public. Also spoke about the web page they are designing within IHC website as a central location for all island Covid-19 info. She invited Laura Silber, Amy Upton and others to meet with them for input to this page. Both were interested in being involved

and Laura asked that they also be in touch with the Dukes County Health Council. Cindy said they would be, in addition to All-Island BOH and Selectmen.

- **Public Forum:** Cindy asked Doug to speak. He said that people had asked him wondering what actions have been taken by the town regarding budgets and financial concerns. They don't realize how much has been done by the Selectmen with financial planning. He is wondering about how to get info out to the voters as the papers don't seem to be talking about it. Should they do a press release? Skipper said that he thinks once the warrant is set they definitely need to do a press release. Doug asked about the number of people getting email notifications from the West Tisbury website. Janice said she could get those numbers.
- **ATM Warrant Amendments:** Jen explained about specific articles that need to be dealt with now and what can get pushed to a fall meeting. Skipper suggested leaving out the board reports to streamline meeting. If the BOH needs to make a report that can be arranged/requested with the Moderator during the meeting. Skipper brought up Article 6 (Personnel Bylaw, YR Classification Plan) and said it was very long and involved a lot of money and should be struck from this Warrant. Jen said they could, but would have to create a new Article for the 2 new positions just created. Skipper also said that Article 60 (Chilmark school windows) should be on the Warrant as the School Committee had not asked to have it removed.  
*After some further discussion, Skipper motioned to approve the revised Warrant with the changes just suggested for ATM June 23, 2020. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous.*
- **Lamberts Cove Road parking:** Jen said she had spoken to Mr. Cottle about his employees parking out on the road. He said since the new business regulations for opening that he needed to move the parking on the property, but needed to get a permit from the Town to do the work and hasn't gotten to it. Jen suggested that Joe (Building Inspector) could write a letter saying that he would allow the parking for now, but stating that the permit must still be gotten. Skipper believes that the Selectmen should not be making the decision. Jen said that Joe answers to the Selectmen and would be uncomfortable in allowing it unless he gets direction from them.  
*Skipper motioned to support the Building Inspector to allow Cottles to move their employee parking to the front lot before receiving the permit. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote: Skipper abstained, Cindy and Kent approved.*  
*Skipper motioned to approve No Parking on both sides of Lambert's Cove Rd starting May 27, 2020. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous.*
- **Governor's bill regarding Reduced Quorum:** Still waiting for State.

- **Library Seedling Exchange:** Alexandra Pratt explained that the seed exchange that they had done had gone very well with the guidance of the BOH. Now they were proposing to do a seedling distribution similar to what they did before, but with sign up only. They worked with the BOH and also the Police Chief to keep traffic down and space people out. She explained in detail the plan. Matt said he was in favor of the plan they came up with.

*Skipper made a motion to approve the Seedling Distribution at the WT Library. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous.*

- **Payroll and Bill Warrants for 5/15/20 and 5/19/20.**

*Skipper made a motion to approve the warrants. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous*

- **Dukes County Regional Housing Authority Vacancy:** Jen said that Mike Bellissimo has resigned from his position so there is a vacancy for a WT representative. Mike has said that he would stay on if need be until someone is found. Jen believes they should be able to find someone fairly quickly and will place an ad. They requested Mike stay on the board until the end of June so that he was able to vote.
- **Absentee Voting:** Cindy said she wanted to remind everyone to absentee vote. Skipper asked how many had voted already? Tara said so far it was about the average for a Town Election, so not a lot.

#### **Other New Business:**

- Laura spoke again about the need to have a central information hub for the Covid-19 info. She asked Matt if he would be willing to put info on the WT Police Website as she believes they have a large following and gets shared on Social Media. Matt said yes they could do that.

#### **Correspondence:**

- Jen said they had received 2 letters; one from the All Island Business Association and another from an Island Hotels group, both requesting a meeting of all island BOS and BOH to work on guidelines for reopening. Jen said that the Towns cannot be less restrictive than the State and thinks that the Governor has given great guidelines. Skipper said he thinks it is a BOH issue and that there is nothing the Selectmen need to do. Kent agreed that they should be following the Governor's restrictions and the BOH. Laura pointed out that she believes the letters were more about a lack of messaging getting out to seasonal visitors. She thinks the Selectmen should be involved since it should be

island wide rules. Jen said wouldn't the centralized website that Cindy spoke about earlier (IHC) have all that info? After more discussion, Cindy asked Jen to speak with Omar (BOH) and ask him to bring the concerns to the All Island BOH.

- Laura also asked about the Parks & Rec beach restrictions and asked if there was money for more personnel hired to enforce? Skipper said that it was a Parks & Rec issue and that she should go to their meeting the next day with her questions. Matt said that there would be a Special Officer starting tomorrow (5/21/20) on Lambert's Cove Rd. hired specifically for that location.

As there were no other comments or questions.

*Skipper made the motion to adjourn. Kent second. Roll Call: all in favor.*

Adjourned 6:00 pm

*Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant*