

Approved 7/26/23
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 19, 2023 4:30 pm
Via Zoom

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

Also present for part or all of the meeting: Ron Rappaport, Marilyn O’Connell, Chris Lyons, Rebekah Thomson, Susan Silk, Jeffrey Dubard, Bill Plapinger, Joe Tierney, Larry Schilmeister (late and after adjournment), Thomas Humphrey, Janice Haynes and other members of the public that did not speak.

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

Minutes: Vote to approve – July 5, 2023

Skipper offered one small correction.

Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of July 5, 2023 as amended. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business: Taken out of order from the posted agenda

- **Conservation Commission Alternate Appointment - Chris Lyons:**
Chris was welcomed and introduced himself. He had filled out the appointment form.

Jessica moved to appoint Chris Lyons as Associate Member to the Conservation Commission. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Indian Hill Complaint:**
Rebekah read a statement from a group of neighbors regarding the ongoing situation, stating that they feel it hasn’t been dealt with by the Zoning Inspector. Joe was having technical difficulties so Jen screen shared and read the letters that Joe had sent to the group regarding his findings. Joe was then able to respond and spoke about his responses. He has denied Chris Cottrell a building permit for the barn until such time as he gets a special permit from the Planning Board. He has also been fined \$100. He believes that the neighbors should have appealed to the ZBA rather than the Select board. Marilyn wondered if there would be any remediation of the land for the large trees that were cut down. Jessica did not believe \$ 100 was enough of a fine and wonders who can enforce the violations. It was decide that Jen, Joe and probably someone from the Conservation Commissioners should meet with Counsel (Ron) to decide what the next steps should be.

Jessica moved to allow a meeting with Council regarding the Indian Hill complaint. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

(Skipped to Old Business)

- **Jefrey Dubard re: Conflict of Interest:**

The Board is concerned that after Jeffrey told them that he was recusing himself from discussions and not voting on matters regarding the 401 State Rd project, Jen found minutes that reflect his participation on numerous occasions going back into 2022. Jeffrey said that he wanted to go back and review the meetings before he responds to the board, but that since he became aware of the conflict he has recused himself. Susan expressed concern that Jeffrey had been privy to information from the affordable Housing committee that he could take back to IHT. Jessica would like to hear from Counsel on the subject but is willing to give Jeffrey time to review. Ron said that the situation is concerning but could not comment further at this time. They will discuss again on next weeks agenda. No action taken.

- **Resumption of In-Person Meetings – Discussion (under New Business):**

Many boards and committees have resumed in-person meetings and Jessica would like the board to consider holding hybrid meetings with the board at town hall and the public welcome to attend in person or via Zoom. Skipper pointed out that they are trying to go green and virtual is less traveling. Cindy would like the ability to attend some virtual meetings as she has been able to attend from work. Jen said they didn't need to vote on it as it wasn't voted in before. The board agreed to start hybrid meetings next week. No action taken.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Skipper spoke about the ribbon cutting at the Chilmark fire station and tri-Town ambulance building. He says they are beautiful buildings and is very happy for them.
- He would like to have a formal discussion on the Howes House project next week and discuss the letters that have been sent. There will be a Public Listening Session on August 9th at the Howes House. The HH committee wants to explore alternate locations and ask Chilmark and Aquinnah if they may have sites available for the Council on Aging in their towns.

Old Business:

- **Housing Bank Testimony Letter:**

Jen had a draft for the board to approve ready for when they request it be sent. She still needs to add the names and such not. The Housing Bank folk may ask for some alterations and Jen would like the authority to make those changes too.

Cindy moved to approve the draft letter for the Housing Bank and authorized jen to make alterations at their request. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Correspondence:

- C. Hodgkinson re: Howes House Project (not for discussion this week)
- S. Wasserman re: Howes House Project (not for discussion this week)
- B. Phear re: Howes House Project (not for discussion this week)
- D. Waters re: Old/New Website Issues: the issue has been fixed thanks to Bruce Stone.
- P. Garcia re: Trash Problem: Jen has emailed the Preservation Trust regarding Alleys and the Board of Health has also spoken with them and 7A regarding the trash issue. They have had no response so far.
- Faria re: Resignation from Task Force Against Discrimination

Cindy moved to accept the resignation of Ariella Faria's resignation from the Task Force Against Discrimination with thanks. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- B. Haynes re: Zoning: FYI – no action taken.
- M. Skjoldebrand re: Howes House Project (not for discussion this week)

Public Comment: There was none.

(Back to New Business)

- **Personnel Board Appointment – Larry Schilmeister 3 year appointment:**
Mr. Schilmeister had not arrived so they had waited till the end. He has filled out the appointment form.

Jessica moved to appoint Larry Schilmeister to the Personnel Board for a term of 3 years. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

With no further business Cindy moved to adjourn. Jessica seconded. Roll Call vote: All in favor,

Meeting adjourned at 5:27 pm

Mr. Schilmeister actually arrived just after the adjournment and was welcomed and introduced himself to the board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant