

*Approved 8/2/23*  
**Town of West Tisbury**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, July 26, 2023 4:30 pm**  
**At the WT Town Hall and via Zoom**

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

**Also present or on Zoom for part or all of the meeting:** Susan Silk, Dan Waters, Beth Kramer, Susan Wasserman, Richard Knabel, Laura Silber, Jeffrey Dubard, Bernadette Lyons, Sam Houghton, Janice Haynes and other members of the public that did not speak.

Skipper called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:30 pm and welcomed everyone to the first in-person meeting in a few years!

**Minutes: Vote to approve – July 19, 2023**

Jessica offered one small correction.

*Jessica moved to approve the Minutes of July 19, 2023 as amended. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

**New Business:**

- **Appointments:**

- Board of registrars – Tony Rezendes (3 years)
- Constable -Nathan Vieira
- Constable – Evan Fielder.

Jen realized the appointment forms had not been filled out so this will be postponed until we get them.

- **Preservation Trust Event Permit Contra Line Dance/1 Day Beer & Wine 8/22/23 6:30-9:30:**

A new event at the grange. Jessica asked if there was a master list of all the events happening in the village area but Jen said there is not tho they have talked about compiling one before.

*Jessica moved to approve the Event Permit and 1 Day beer & Wine permit for the preservation Trust. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: Jessica and Cindy in favor, Skipper abstained as he believes the sale of beer and wine are not allowed by zoning. (2-0-1)*

- **Polly Hill Event Permit – Food Truck Application El Gato Grande 8/5/23:**

The event has already been approved but at that time they had not yet decided on having a food truck. Jen pointed out that this is a one-time approval for the event at Polly Hill, not a

blanket approval for El Gato Grande food truck. Yommi pops will also be sold at the event at a table.

*Jessica moved to approve the El Gato Grande food truck at Polly Hill on 8/5/23. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: Jessica and Cindy in favor, Skipper abstained again. (2-0-1)*

- **MV Commission re: Housing:**

Laura had sent copies of the Governors Roundtable Summary to the board and was there to answer questions. She gave highlights of the report and also thanked the board for sending the letter of support. She mentioned that there is a high level of interest from the Governors office on the housing issues on the Cape and Islands. She said due to the fact that the invite to the round-table had come on very short notice not many people from the island were able to attend and the Commission is asking that the town designate a chain of people that would be able to attend in the future, including the MVC who are willing to represent the island towns when no-one else can be there. The board will begin a list and put the topic on the next agenda to seek more people. Jessica indicated that she would be interested. Laura asked the board and has asked the Affordable Housing committee to create a list of specific housing needs for the town.

She also spoke about an opportunity from the MA Housing Partnership called Complete Neighborhoods which is about planning and creating affordable housing in rural areas. Aquinnah has said they are interested and the director of the program has suggested that the 6 island towns should apply for a regional plan. The MV Commission will be offering support to facilitate the application process. There will be a presentation scheduled and the Planning Board and AHC should be part of it. The next step would be for a letter of interest from all 6 towns and getting some info to MVC to do the application. The board thought it was a great idea. Jen will write the letter and contact the AHC and Planning Board. Jeffrey mentioned that he is intending to be there representing the AHC.

**Topics Not Anticipated:** There was none.

**Old Business:**

- **Howes House Discussion – Correspondence and Alternate Sites:**

Skipper recapped the current situation. As folks have indicated that they should be looking into alternate locations, they have looked into other town owned properties but there are none available. Regarding other properties that the town could perhaps purchase, he suggested that the Island Gymnastics property in North Tisbury had been up for sale at one point, but he was unsure if it still was. There was discussion about the visioning sessions, or listening sessions that are planned and Skipper said that the Howes House Committee already knows what the Council on Aging needs. Jessica feels that they need to pause even more, perhaps disband the current committee and start from the beginning as it's obvious that the project cannot move forward as it is now presented. Susan W. said they should use what they

learned from the Town hall renovation project. There was also discussion about another space/needs study to determine priorities as it's been a while since the last one. Sue Silk suggested an online Survey to gather info. Cindy said they need to come up with a list of questions to be asked to get the info they need. It was decided to start with the listening sessions and also use the info gathered in the focus groups that happened earlier. They will decide what to do about the committee at another time as their next meeting isn't scheduled till the end of August. Jen mentioned that they need to look at the design contract and the ramifications of stopping the project. Cindy asked folks to email Jen with questions that they think need to be asked at the sessions. No action taken.

- **Cemetery Fence:**

Jen explained that they had decided to have the fence painted a while ago but had only just gotten around to clearing it to prep for the work. They discovered that parts of the fence along State Rd were buried in the ground and had begun to rot and it is not time well spent to paint it. There is \$123 thousand in an account designated for cemetery work which was set up as a perpetual care fund and has accumulated mostly from the sale of plots. It cannot be transferred and used for anything else. She's not sure the amount will be enough to replace the whole fence but is asking the board what they want to do. It will also have to go before the Historic District. Skipper suggested a non-wood material such as Azak. After discussion it was decided to replace just the section of fence along State Rd and they will start by contacting the HDC for their approval. No action taken.

**Correspondence:**

- Historic District Re: Howes House
- L. Hearn Re: Howes House
- R. Knabel Re: Howes House
- S. Silk Re: Town Committee Training:

Jen has actually done some research and found that manuals exist from other towns. They will discuss this more in a couple of weeks.

- K. Logue Howes House Committee Resignation

*Cindy moved to accept the resignation of Kathy Logue from the Howes House Building Committee with thanks. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

**Public Comment:** There was none.

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

*Meeting adjourned at 5:53 pm*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant*