

Approved 9/13/23
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 6, 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: Richard Andre, Sue Silk, Bernadette Lyons, Sophie Pittaluga, Jenny Gadowski, Dan Waters, Beth Kramer, Eunkie Seonwoo, 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 – August 30, 2023:

Skipper had one correction.

Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of August 30, 2023 as corrected. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **Vineyard Power Re: Mass Save’s Community First Partnership program
“Empowering Communities through Energy Efficiency”:**

Richard gave an update on the MA Save program and introduced his colleague Sophie. He says the Commonwealth has started a new initiative help residents navigate the program and they are working with Vineyard Power. They are asking for an addendum to the letter of support previously signed by the board and also asking to use the town seal on their letter of outreach that they are hoping to put out with the next tax bills. They are asking all 6 towns. There was some concern from the board on the use of the town seal and Jen pointed out that they had allowed Cape Light Compact to use it a few years ago.

Cindy moved to approve the addendum as presented. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor

Jessica moved to allow the allow the use of the town seal on the MA Save letter. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor

- One Day Beer & Wine: Community Foundation – Grange 5:30-8:30
 - Creative Living Award 10/5
 - Grant Award 11/15/23:

Jen explained that there are 2 separate events on different dates at the same location and at the same time. There was no discussion.

Jessica moved to approve the 2 events as listed. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: Jessica and Cindy in favor, Skipper abstained as he does not believe the events are permitted by zoning. (2-0-1)

Skipper then asked how the zoning amendments were coming and Jen said it seems they have been set aside for now until the Visioning Committee finishes its work.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Sue asked about the COA discussion and Jen said that it will be on next week's agenda..

Old Business:

- **Howes House Renovation Project:**

Skipper passed the chairmanship off to Cindy for this discussion since he is chair of the building committee. Cindy feels it is premature to set a timeline for the project until they have a working Council on Aging in place and it's a bit more organized. She said they should pause it and the others agreed. They are in a holding pattern with the contracts and Jen says the contractors have been great about it. The next step is to get the COA in order and Jen has reached out to Chilmark and Aquinnah but gotten little response. There was discussion about whether the current building committee would stay on and whether appointments would be rescinded and it was determined that once there was a working group representing all 3 towns that they would make the decision. There will be further discussion next week. No actions taken.

- **Stoney Hill Lot Purchase Request Update:**

Jen showed a map of the area and summarized the situation. She has spoken with the DRI Coordinator at MV Commission who had originally set restrictions on the number of houses in the development. He said he thought they would be okay with more houses now as the affordable housing crisis is much worse now than before. Jen believes the Stoney Hill Association is willing to sell lots and Jen showed a proposal to purchase 3 lots, plus the lot from Ms. Devine to combine with town owned lots to create one large lot that could support up to 9 bedrooms. The Stoney Hill Association will need to meet and vote and then let Jen know what they come up with. There was discussion about turning the project over to the Affordable Housing Committee, but it was decided that they should continue to work on it until the land is actually acquired. Jen will let them and Ms. Devine know that the town is interested. No action taken.

Correspondence:

- **Dept. Of Conservation re: Tree Cutting Plan:**

There are 3 areas in the West Tisbury part of the state forest that are infested by beetles that they are planning to cut down and encapsulate but leave in place. There was concern about

leaving the trees as a fire hazard and Skipper advised Jen to let Greg (Fire Chief) know and update the board next week as to his thoughts about it.

Public Comment: There was none.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Janice Haynes,
Administrative Assistant*