

## **Minutes, West Tisbury TFAD Monthly Meeting, October 4, 2022**

### **FINAL, approved November 1, 2022**

**Present:** Omar Johnson, Susanna Sturgis, Terry Kriedman, Alexandra Pratt, Loren Ghiglione, Ted Jochsberger

Alexandra chaired the meeting.

The **September 7 minutes** were **approved**.

#### **New member for Task Force**

Ted Jochsberger has attended several Task Force meetings and would like to join the group. Omar asked Ted to share a little about his background.

Ted is a retired college professor, having taught chemistry and pharmacy courses for 43 years. He taught chemistry at the Brooklyn College of Pharmacy, got his pharmacy degree, and worked for a while as a pharmacist. When the college became part of Long Island University, the university didn't need another chemistry professor so he taught pharmacy courses instead.

He and his wife moved to the Vineyard about 12 years ago, after coming here summers since 1984. Having lived in New York all his life, he was looking for peace and quiet. He is also on West Tisbury's Affordable Housing Committee and its Community Preservation Committee.

We voted unanimously to invite Ted to join the Task Force, and he accepted. Omar will let the selectboard know so that they can officially appoint him.

Ted noted that Yom Kippur began at sundown on the day of our meeting. Alexandra said that we discussed this at our last meeting and decided to meet anyway because our meetings currently conclude before sundown. However, it might still make it harder for the public to attend so we'll keep this in mind when conflicts arise in future.

#### **Update on survey of board and committee members**

Loren's survey asked respondents to suggest individuals who might be good board/committee members, and about a dozen people names were given. At our September meeting we divided them up in order to follow up with each one. Both of Alexandra's contacts wanted more information about what openings were available and what they involved. Susanna hasn't had a chance to contact her two people. One of Loren's contacts was too busy to take on another commitment; the other was interested but concerned about her mobility issues. The Board of Health was suggested as a possibility; Omar said the best way for someone to find out whether this might be a good fit is to attend a meeting or two. One of Terry's contacts is already on a board and can't take on another commitment; the other was recommended for the Affordable Housing Committee, which Ted (who's on it) doesn't think has any openings. If this person is interested, she should contact the AHC admin person, Rhonda Conley, for more information.

### **Update on issues raised with Cindy Mitchell**

Omar hasn't had a chance to follow up with Cindy. He asked if it would be OK to get her responses in writing and circulate them to the rest of us. This should be OK under the Open Meeting Law as long as we don't discuss them till our next meeting on Nov. 1. Loren suggested inviting Cindy to our next meeting. We agreed both that Omar will submit our questions in writing *and* invite Cindy to come to our November 1 meeting. Susanna will send Omar a copy of the draft minutes for the Aug. 2 meeting, which has action items flagged in yellow.

### **Guidelines for dealing with the press and public**

Susanna brought this up to clarify our press policy going forward. She rewrote Loren's press release about the survey assuming that her draft and Loren's would be considered and possibly revised and/or combined at our October 4 meeting, then learned that Loren had already given his draft to both papers. This happened around the time the migrants arrived on the Vineyard, and as far as we know it hasn't appeared in either paper.

After some discussion, we generally agreed that the Task Force should sign off on press releases and other material going out with the Task Force's name on it. Ted suggested bringing both versions to the Task Force for consideration at our Nov. 1 meeting. We decided this was a good idea.

### **Report on "Seeing White on MV" program**

Susanna is participating in "Seeing White on MV, a program organized by members of the Racial Justice and Human Dignity Committee of We Stand Together / Estamos Todos Juntos. It's based on the *Seeing White* podcast series (2017; <https://www.sceneonradio.org/seeing-white/>), and the organizers have done considerable research to uncover documents linking the issues to the Vineyard past and present. Participants listen to (or read transcripts of) the podcasts independently, but there is a Facebook group where each installment can be discussed, and there have been two group meetings so far, one via Zoom and one in person. There will be one more Zoom meeting and an in-person gathering when the program concludes at the end of the month. Susanna is enthusiastic about it and hopes it will be repeated.

### **Planning for public forum**

For a date, we tentatively decided on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2023, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the WT library. Alexandra reported that Doug Ruskin is interested in helping out, although he is no longer on the FinCom. Dan Waters also wants to assist.

The workshop was first held in the winter of 2017, co-sponsored by the West Tisbury library and the MV League of Women Voters. It was repeated in early 2020, just before COVID-19 got under way. The idea was and is to introduce townfolk to how town government works, with an eye to getting more people actively involved. This time we want to focus our outreach particularly on those who are currently very under-represented, especially people of color and young people.

The "What Makes West Tisbury Tick" brochure needs revision. Susanna wants to work on that. We'd like to see a new title, one that doesn't make us think of crawling creatures. Alexandra created a Google Doc, which can be accessed at this godawful URL:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s5hJf0PfaQgtXQuXBP35K4qlYZMKpHwEAv6ZW80vuMg/edit>

Alexandra will work on a press release and a poster.

### **New business**

Terry shared a *Boston Globe* story from Sept. 9, 2022, by Kimberly Atkins Stohr, a Black woman who was subjected to an aggressive search by TSA at Martha's Vineyard Airport: "[The skies, and TSA, still aren't friendly to those with Black hairstyles](#)". It's not clear if anyone locally has jurisdiction over the TSA, but Susanna suggested writing a letter to the airport Commission expressing concern. She will bring a draft to our next meeting. *[SJS note: My buddy Richard Knabel is on the Airport Commission. I'm going to ask him for advice on who this letter should be addressed and sent to.]*

The Task Force's next meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 5 p.m. The agenda must go to town hall by Friday, Sept. 28.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 6 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanna J. Sturgis  
Recorder