

Approved 6/22/11
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, June 8, 2011 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Richard Knabel & Cindy Mitchell, Jen Rand-Town Administrator, Pam Thors-Adm. Asst., Ernie Mendenhall –Building Inspector, Tim Twombly, Sander Shapiro, Barbara and Bob Day, Jim Powell, Michael Colaneri, James Sepanara, Peter Brannen and Jim Hickie.

Minutes: *R. Knabel motion to approve the minutes of 5/25/11 as amended. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Tim Twombly re: Cape Light Compact: Tim, West Tisbury’s representative to the Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative, explained the Cooperative’s mission and their relationship to Cape Light Compact. He cited the Brewster Project on the Cape as the project most likely to be completed. Richard asked how the CVEC operates. Tim said that the group, formed in 2007, is made up of 18 members who meet once a month. According to Tim, Cape Light Compact did not have the legal mandate to run projects. Richard asked if the CVEC is basically a developer. Tim said that, yes, it is. Asked about the cost to the town for projects, Tim said that most of the cost would be borne by the CVEC and that additional funding by the town would be defined by the project. Richard talked about the controversy surrounding the Brewster Project.

James Sepanara re: Oak Lane betterment tax: James Sepanara discussed his reasons for wanting the town to either assess a betterment tax on the Oak Ln subdivision, or take over the road. He explained that he was following up on an issue he brought up in 2007. He said that the Planning Board should never have approved the subdivision on a dirt road with so many lots and that the ensuing Zoning changes, allowing home businesses and guest houses, only worsened the situation. He cited noise, dust and safety issues that in his opinion have only gotten worse over the years. When asked if the road association had been approached to pave the road, he said that they had never been able to get the 2/3 vote required. He said that he thinks that Ron Rappaport’s office should be consulted and that he felt he may need to take legal action. Richard said that for the town to take over the road, it would have to be approved at Town Meeting and would not necessarily result in the road being paved. Skipper said that it would be hard for the Board to take action without the support of the road association. Cindy asked that they take the issue under advisement. Skipper suggested that the road association be contacted for more information.

Donor’s Collaborative Event: This group would like to hold an educational forum on the importance of philanthropy. Beer, wine and appetizers will be served from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm on August 15th at the Grange Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

R. Knabel made a motion to approve the event permit. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention, (S. Manter).

Affordable Housing Policy: Richard stated that the Affordable Housing Conveyance Policy and Process document was something that had been addressed before but that the document presented tonight was blazing new ground on the Vineyard. Cindy asked if the Affordable Housing Committee supports this Policy and Richard asked if Town Counsel had reviewed it. Jim said that it had been reviewed by Town Counsel and that the AHC was in support of it. Michael Colaneri stated that the policy is based on a proposal put forward by a private individual and hopefully more benefactors will step forward. Richard asked if this needed to be voted at town meeting. Michael said that according to Cindy at Reynolds, Rappaport and Kaplan, it is a policy, not a bylaw therefore not requiring a town meeting vote. A summer forum was discussed. Michael said that feedback is welcome to address the many details that need to be ironed out and that a final review by Town Counsel will be necessary.

Cable Denial of Proposals: Jen explained that the contract with Comcast, although moving along well, will not be finalized by the time the current contract expires on June 30th. She said that to keep the current contract in place until the new contract has been signed, the Board needs to sign a Preliminary Denial of the contract being negotiated. The denial document does not need to list any reasons or details until the deadline date of Sept.16th. Jen assured the Board that the contract negotiations would be done well in advance of that date.

C. Mitchell moved to sign the Preliminary Denial Form. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Old Business:

Town Administrator Job Description: Jen said she will provide it within a few days. Cindy suggested that she meet and go over it with Jen to come up with a draft.

Fall Town Meeting date: Cindy said that she would like to talk about when it could be held, suggesting that it be before the tax rate has been set. Richard asked what types of articles would be appropriate. Jen suggested that they not lock themselves in. Skipper said that there could be a limit set for money articles. Jen warned against setting that sort of precedent. Richard stated that fall meetings should only deal with urgent issues. Skipper said that the Annual Town Meeting often doesn't allow for more complicated issues to be discussed. Jen said that the financial management team would meet and talk over the specifics.

Field Gallery purchase schedule: Cindy said that there is a list of items that must be attended to before the purchase can move forward. She said that the Maleys have agreed to a fall closing.

The Residential Exemption. Skipper talked about having a public forum to discuss this issue. Cindy said that these meetings have been poorly attended. She suggested a short web based survey. Jonathan Revere suggested they consider utilizing the TV station and volunteered to help. Cindy thanked him but said that they might want to wait a week and think about a date.

Conservation to S. Maxner re: Greenlands: Richard mentioned that he walked the trails with Steve Maxner and saw significant damage due to dirt bike usage. He said that the Board needs to be proactive. Cindy said that she wanted to read the letter carefully and asked that the issue be on the agenda next week.

R. Knabel made a motion to adjourn. S. Manter seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.