**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**Chilmark Planning Board Meeting**

**December 11, 2023**

**4:30PM**

**Via remote participation**

Present: Ann Wallace, Catherine Thompson, Peter Cook, Hugh Weisman, Mitchell Posin

Not Present: Rich Osnoss, Janet Weidner

Public & Board/Comm. Members: Sergio Modigliani, Amy Weinberg, Clarissa Allen, Beetlebung Farm (Mara Flanagan), Krishana Collins, Mary Breslauer, Matt Poole, Rebecca from Teaching Farm, Rebecca Miller, Thomas Humphrey

Staff: Jennifer L. Christy

Site: Remote Meeting/Participation on ZOOM

The Board members nominated Hugh Weisman to be the interim Chairperson for the duration of today’s meeting. The motion was seconded. Hugh Weisman declined. Ann Wallace made a motion to name Cathy Thompson as interim chairperson for the duration of the meeting. The motion was seconded and all members present voted aye.

The Meeting was opened by at 4:30PM by Cathy Thompson.

**Minutes:**

* October 23, 2023 was reviewed and approved as written, by roll call vote.
* November 27, 2023 was reviewed and approved as written, by roll call vote.

**Discussion: Agricultural zoning bylaw amendments:**

* Cathy Thompson noted that a public hearing date will not be set today due to the fact that the proposal has not yet been received from the Select Board. It was also noted that the Select Board has requested that the Board please attend a meeting on December 14, 2023 at 5:30PM to discuss this topic.
* Peter Cook was recognized and noted that the correspondence from Amy Weinberg was received. Peter Cook noted he feels responsible for arguing to move quickly but it has become clear, he noted, that more review and evaluation is needed before a hearing.
* Amy Weinberg was recognized and expressed the desire to open up a discussion of the process. She noted that there needs to be more work and conversation and many months have been spent on this. She expressed her desire for collaborative dialogue, a real conversation where people are hearing each other’s concerns and where problem-solving can occur before going forward with a public hearing. She noted that she has more to share of the farm group’s philosophies and values. She noted that she feels that the processes so far have trumped real conversation. She further noted that she would very much like to share more of their ideas and she is searching for the avenue. She noted that there is genuine concern on the part of the Town and she is keen to have this dialogue to identify problems and provide reassurance.
* Cathy Thompson thanked Amy Weinberg and noted that the Select Board meeting on the 14th should provide needed clarification. Peter Cook thought that there is no other way to get a discussion/dialogue going without a public hearing that would bring in all sides of the issue. Amy Weinberg stated that the Select Board may have been confused at their meeting on who was presenting the zoning bylaw amendment proposal due to the fact that there was no Planning Board member at that meeting on the 5th. She noted that this meeting planned for the 14th may bring a good step forward. Amy Weinberg suggested that there must be another way where parties may get together to dialogue outside of the public hearing process and further noted that there may need to be a discussion about whether the existing the zoning bylaw may not need to be changed.
* Clarissa Allen was recognized and noted that the Select Board, at their meeting on December 5th, wished to send the proposed as written bylaw to Town Counsel to see what its limitations are. She hoped that Town Counsel may share recommendations and whether the existing zoning bylaw may be sufficient for the farms as it exists now.
* Hugh Weisman was recognized and he said that the proposed bylaw was voted at the last Planning Board meeting to be sent to the Select Board and asked what happened to interrupt this process. Clarissa Allen stated that at the end of the Dec. 5th Select Board meeting they asked for input from Town Counsel without sending it back yet to the Planning Board for a public hearing.
* Matt Poole was recognized (4:50PM), and noted that he remembered that a concern at the Select Board meeting was whether the bylaw proposal could be changed or revised before a final draft and how much revision can happen to the proposal during the public hearing process. He further noted that there were questions about whether this was a suitable starting point and whether the public hearing process would allow necessary revisions to what is currently proposed.
* Hugh Weisman read aloud the text of an email he received of Town Counsel’s opinion, sent to Tim Carroll, regarding the farm bylaw topic.
* Peter Cook stated he thought that this is a good outcome to have a joint meeting on December 14, 2023.
* Hugh Weisman asked Jennifer Christy to send the Town Counsel opinion to the farm group members. Jennifer Christy stated she would inquire about sending Counsel opinion to others in advance of the Select Board meeting on Dec. 14th.

**FY2025 DRAFT Dept. Budget Proposal:**

* The FY25 Draft budget proposal was approved, without the salary amounts that are not now available.
* Sergio Modigliani noted that there is valuable training available to Planning Board members.

**Correspondence:**

* A Squibnocket Pond District Advisory Committee report from Sept. 25, 2023 was reviewed.

**PB Subcommittee Master Plan & Menemsha Traffic Calming review:**

* Next meeting is on Friday, December 15, 2023 at 10AM to review the Menemsha Traffic Calming review.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**Next Meeting(s):**

* Thursday, December 14, 2023, 5:30PM with the Select Board
* Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, 4:30PM

**Documents:**

Meeting adjourned at 5:08PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer L. Christy