

Chilmark Board of Selectmen January 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Remote Participants: Chairman Bill Rossi, Warren Doty and James Malkin. Others: Tim Carroll, Cathy Thompson, Peter Cook, Sally Cook, Carl Tack, Ann Wallace, Kim Rome, Gary Stuber, Clark Goff, Andrew Goldman & Susan, Rich Saltzberg, Debby Packer, Janet Weidner, Jessica Roddy, Russell Maloney, Simon Shapiro, Jim Vercruysse, John Flender, Adam Turner, Dan Doyle, Diana DeBlase, Deborah Hancock, Richard DeWitt, Robert Hannemann, Tim Jaroch, Barbara Armstrong, Barbara_, Bill Veno, Catherine Deese, Christina Colarusso, Melanie Becker, Clair__, Dr. Fyler, Ed Greenebaum, Irene Ziebath, Jed Katch, Jeremie Rogers, Jessika Roddy, Police Chief Klaren, TTA Chief Retmier, Katie Carroll, Judy_, Kay Rentschler, Laurisa Rich, Maia Coleman VG, Margaret Maida, Mary Boyd, Mollie Doyle, Richard Winickoff, Robert Perschel, Robin Smith, Helen Parker & Riggs Parker, Sergio Modigliani, Simon Shapiro, Sean Slavin, Tamara___, Julie Flanders, Charles Granquist, Anne M Gran, Alysha Norbury, Allison Parry, Judith Flanders, Susan Murphy and Matt Taylor. *(70 Participants-not all spoke or were fully identified)*

At 5:00 PM Chairman Rossi called the meeting to order on the Zoom platform.

Minutes:

Draft minutes from the Selectmen's meeting held 12/1/2020 were reviewed. Mr. Malkin moved to approve as written Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Mr. Doty said the draft minutes from 12/15/2020 need work and recommended to table till the next meeting.

Draft minutes from the Joint meeting of Selectmen & Human Resource Board from 12/23/2020 were reviewed. Mr. Doty moved to approve minutes as written. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Deborah Packer - Shared Use Path (SUP) North Road versus Implementing a "Share The Road Campaign": Chairman Rossi asked that a representative from the MV Commission give some background to this topic prior to discussion. Chilmark representative on the MV Commission Joan Malkin asked that Jim Varacuse speak to this.

Mr. Varacuse said this is about safety for cycling from down town to Aquinnah. Mr. Varacuse said North Road is a beautiful road any planning done would have to be approved and wanted by the town. Maintain rural character. Where road is in the right of way. Planning Board asked us to come up with a proposal. Nothing concrete yet. Goal is safety and connectivity for the island. Dan Doyle a MVC Planner said he has received some strident opposition some favorable about this. MVC Director Adam Turner said it is premature to call it a Shared Use Path. Joan Malkin if town doesn't want then will not do.

Mr. Doty said at our Chilmark Planning Board meeting he heard universal opposition to this plan of a SUP. Mr. Doty said he does not see point in continuing this as no one on North Road wants this. Mr. Malkin said this is a preliminary menu planning nothing before me to opine on. Don't believe there will be support for SUP on North or Middle Rd.

Deborah Packer said:

Thank you for your continued patience and consideration as I speak this evening. Summited with my request to be put on the Agenda for this evening, I included supporting documents for your consideration and reference. These documents are also upload for review under the Board of Selectman's Agenda on the Chilmark.gov website.

For clarification: "Shared Use Path SUP's grants from the Transpiration Improvement Program must comply with urban based Mass DOT criteria in order to be funded. These standards are intended for "URBAN AREAS" to get Bikes and Pedestrians of the road corridor in with the intention of relieving congestion and increasing road speeds, while providing a sense of public safety. "Shared Use Path" grant designs are not to be confused with funding a rural walking path within the roads Right of Way. The SUP's have width minimums and are straight and flat as possible, requiring state standard site line requirements. Constructing a SUP's on a rural road like North Road would require major roadway reconstructions in order to meet these Mass DOT criteria standards. Plans have been underway for over a year, currently Martha's Vineyard Commission Staff are surveying North Road and feasibility data is being collected. The design must be "grant ready" by the next funding cycle in order to receive funding. (It is currently listed in the grant cycle for 2024-2029) If the town says thank you but no thank you.

Now, the grant money and the town tax contributions to the Martha's Vineyard Commission will continue go toward funding island projects just not this one.

With that being said: As an alternative to "Shared Use Path's (SUP's)", a potential "Share The Road Campaign" adheres to the continuing effort to protect the Character, Land and Waters of the Town of Chilmark, as documented in the Chilmark Master Plan and Chilmark's Wetland Protection Bylaws.

Please consider a motion: That the Board of Selectman of the Town of Chilmark request the removal of designing "Shared Use Paths" (SUP's) in Chilmark. From: Martha's Vineyard Commission's Transportation Improvement Program. Thank you

Deb Hancock spoke about why the MVC was formed. With history of MVC. Selectmen can stop this now.

Parkers stated they do not support moving forward and support Selectmen rejecting now.

Dan Doyle good to have this conversation now. Goal is not SUP but safety.

Kay Rentchler also opposed to moving forward with this plan to have changes made to North road.

Mr. Varacuse said thank you for this input it is good to hear, and what you to know our objective is safety.

Molly Doyle said she is also opposed to SUP. No expansion of surfaces; referring to environment considerations.

Richard Winickoff said he considers North Road unsafe for cycling and walking. Richard Winickoff said there is something to be said to improve safety. Mrs. Winickoff spoke of the unsafe situation of road as it is now.

Cary Fylor spoke passionately against project and about how this project would not benefit the town. But would support a share the road campaign to slow traffic down.

Chairman Rossi said living off North Road over 30 years; he would put kid's bikes into the car and drive to bike path. Chairman Rossi said that was a good trade for the beauty of our roads. Chairman Rossi said we don't see much support for SUP.

Mr. Doty moved that Chilmark Selectmen are opposed to developing SUP along North Road. Jim Malkin spoke about his concerns to hamstring a planning process that might turn up things we have not considered. Recommend amendment should there be other alternatives when they are developed we would consider them. After discussion Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. Mr. Doty said continuing alternatives but no SUP, no changing nature of Road, no widening, no altering or making of path. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Deb Hancock said thank you for listening to us. Jess Roddy said she loved the idea to close roads sometimes so bikers can use them and was interested in how we would work on that.

Mr. Rich DeWitt of Chilmark bike advisory, also an avid cyclist said he sees this from a safety stand point. Mr. DeWitt said we could consider opportunity for Sunday mornings to shut road to vehicles and use for walking & biking. Mr. DeWitt said we have traffic signs for deer, we should consider signage for cycling and walkers. Mr. DeWitt said he looks forward to keeping involved. Adam Turner said thank you, we (MVC) will come back with presentation in the future.

Cemetery Commission - New Regulations:

Cemetery Commission Chairman Sally Cook spoke of the process that was followed during the regulation amendment procedure. Ms. Cook said from our hearing held 12/30/2020 Ben Hall of Edgartown had written comments, we took them seriously. *12/30/2020 version was presented on the shared screen.*

Ms. Cook spoke to all of the changes and can be seen on the amendment proposal on Selectmen agenda.

<https://www.chilmarkma.gov/board-selectmen/agenda/board-selectmen-39>

Jim Malkin moved to approve the Cemetery Commission's recommendations. Chairman Rossi said thank you for all the work went into this. Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Mr. Doty said he like the section that outlined that the Cemetery Commission would hear individual requests.

COVID 19 Updates:

Board of Health Chairman was unable to speak her update but typed into the chat option on the zoom platform. That there are now 28 new COVID 19 cases on the Island from the weekend. Contact tracers are working hard and essentially full time. Vaccines are being distributed. Not much, overall, has changed, but there is an air of hope!

Vaccine - mandating public safety staff:

Police Chief Klaren said Police Department not requiring COVID 19 vaccination at this time. Tri Town Ambulance Chief Retmier said his thought was that COVID 19 vaccination mandate was good but since staff input he has changed it to vaccine will be required but what one (vaccine maker) and when will happen is not mandated.

Mr. Doty said he is not in favor of mandating. Mr. Malkin said he recommends not to mandate vaccinations. Chairman Rossi said the Selectmen will revisit this topic in a month.

Ms. Carroll typed into the Zoom chat: most who it's offered to will accept and those that don't can make modifications at work. Board of Health recommends not to mandate.

Public Safety Building (PSB) Project:

Chairman Rossi (also Chairman of the PSBP Committee) said we have a presentation ready and we are meeting Friday and then the Committee will send to Board of Selectmen's office and it be on agenda for Selectmen's 1/19/21 meeting. Chairman Rossi said the PSBP Committee figured in to cost a 3% interest Bonding Rate this is a high estimate. Chairman Rossi said we will have several public meetings (remote participation via Zoom platform)

Rob Hannemann (Chairman of the Energy Committee and Finance Advisory) spoke about Solar being involved in the building of the 2 buildings (fire station & TTA). Mr. Hannemann explained CVEC - round 6.

Public Safety Building (PSB) Project Continued...

This program would lease the roofs through CVEC (Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative) and a developer bears the cost. CVEC manages the building and the State aid support. Mr. Hannemann said we in return get a lower rate for the energy and over time for small fee take over panels 10 to 15 years in future. Electrify more and more to replace fossil fuels. Send non-binding letter of interest. Ask is that Board of Selectmen approve sending letter to be a participant in CVEC round 6.

Chairman Rossi confirmed that this doesn't commit the town unless approved at Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Malkin moved to have Tim Carroll sign the letter. Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Chairman Rossi said the PSBP building plans are designed to be solar ready. Chairman Rossi said the committee is generally pleased with what we finally have. Mr. Doty said Jim Newman asked him to say Bill Rossi is doing a great job as chairman of the committee. Chairman Rossi said this Public Safety Buildings proposals will go on the www.chilmarkma.gov website soon.

Town Administrator Updates:

Mr. Carroll said from the Town Insurance policy review there was a recommendation. The recommendation was that if the town continues to do public notarizations we should consider insurance to cover that.

Mr. Doty moved to continue to offer the notary services at the town hall and supports this added insurance coverage. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Cares Act filing updates – Mr. Carroll said the deadline for the filing deadline has been extended to 1/15/2021. Contact tracing funded with Cares Act grants.

School HVAC project – Mr. Carroll said we have the latest plans from Te2 and we will get together to meet on these plans this coming week. Selectmen Mr. Hannemann encouraged keeping this project moving forward.

4 North Ridge Road land sale – Chairman Rossi said we have the final document from Town Counsel and he and Tim Carroll will put together the bid packet 1/6/2021 or 1/7/2021.

Mr. Carroll said we are coming up to deadlines for FY22 Budget Requests and reminded Selectmen and departments to send them in to the office as soon as possible.

Mr. Carroll said Budget Hearings start Jan 20, 2021. Selectman Malkin presented a budget subcommittee proposal. Mr. Malkin said historically the budget hearing meetings would be 3 hours + and with the Zoom platform it is not desirable. Mr. Malkin's recommendation:

- Review only the large budgets in full FinCom and Board of Selectmen Zoom meeting
- BOS & FinCom review anything over 2.5% increase
- Small committee consisting: 1 Selectmen, Town Administrator, 1 FinCom member and Town Accountant to meet with all departments and then bring to a final meeting for motions.
- Proposed Budget Hearing dates: January 20, 21, 26, 27 & 28 for the large budgets and any over 2.5%

Mr. Doty moved to approve the recommended plan from Mr. Malkin for the budget hearings. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion.

Mr. Hannemann the Finance Committee (FinCom) Chairman said he supports this plan and recommended adding Emergency services and OPEB be considered in the larger committee meetings. Mr. Hannemann said the FINCOM liaisons will work with departments to review what will be brought to a larger group meeting. The liaison make recommendations with any observations.

SO VOTED: 3 Ayes

MMA conference:

Mr. Carroll said the conference was going to be completely remote participation this year.

Board Administrator Positions:

Mr. Carroll said the Town Advertised in both island newspapers for the Board Administrator positions. Mr. Carroll reported receiving 4 application requests so far.

CVEC newsletter - service for schedule Z:

Mr. Carroll said we have stranded energy credits, and now CVEC is willing to take this on.

Vehicle charging stations

Mr. Carroll said the State has reinstated 100% reimbursement grant to install charging stations for electric vehicles in public land. Mr. Carroll said we intend to apply for the March deadline with Energy Committee and an Electrician.

Mr. Carroll spoke about the MIIA insurance up to 3% discount to town policy costs for attending training. There was also discussion about Best Practices driver history check on anyone who drives town vehicle. Police Chief Klaren said he is happy to work with Tim to get this done.

At 6:38 PM with no further agenda items for discussion Mr. Malkin moved to adjourn. Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 01/19/2021

Document list:

- Draft minutes from Selectmen meetings held on 12/1/2020, 12/15/2020 & 12/23/2020
- D. Packer's outline for discussion of concern for possible MVC declaring SUP on North Road
- Share the Road campaign vs SUP by D. Packer
- Cemetery Regulation & Policies with amendments for final Selectmen approval
- Tri Town Ambulance Chief letter to Selectmen concerning COVID vaccinations for department
- Letter of Intent to Participate in CVEC's PV/Storage Initiative Round 6
- MIIA insurance Notary Professional Liability policy
- Chilmark School HVAC updated plans from Te2 engineering
- Newspaper advertisements (both island papers) for Board Administrator position vacancies
- CVEC 12.22.2020 update report
- Energy production report for PV in Chilmark for month of November
- Senator Cyr's email about electric vehicle charging station grants
- MIIA insurance recommendation to check town drivers history reports annually
- MIIA training rewards status for Chilmark
- Comcast programming changes 12.16.2020