

Chilmark Selectmen August 18, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Remote participants: Selectmen; Chairman Rossi, Jim Malkin, Warren M Doty. Others: Tim Carroll, Police Chief Jonathan Klaren, Andrew Lee, Noah Asimow, Susan Stevens, Amy Cody, Robert Hannemann, Ann Wallace, Peter Cook, Cathy Thompson, Tim Rich, Clark Goff, Maia Coleman, Margaret Maida, Steven Flanders, Diana DeBlase, Ron Rappaport, Michael Jacobs, Jed Katch, Steve Lewenberg and reporter Lucas Thors., (21 participants)

At 3:00 PM Chairman Bill Rossi called the remote participation meeting to order.

Minutes:

Selectmen reviewed the August 4, 2020 meeting minutes. There was a spelling correction made. Mr. Doty moved to approve minutes as corrected. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Police Department:

Chief Klaren requested that the Selectmen consider appointing Andrew Lee as a new Traffic Officer. Mr. Doty moved to appoint this recommendation from Chief Klaren. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Letter to be given by traffic officers to van and bus tour drivers:

As a follow up from last Selectmen's meeting about the traffic and possible health hazard the tour / charter companies are causing in Menemsha there were letters drafted by the Board of Health and the Selectmen's office. After review of the Selectmen letter Mr. Doty made an addition to letter for clarification. This document will be printed with the Board of Health notice to drivers on one side and Selectmen letter on other. Mr. Doty moved to approve having the traffic officers distribute these in Menemsha. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Chief Klaren gave a report about the traffic on the West Dock and what the police traffic officers have been doing since the last Selectmen's meeting when he was asked to address the situation.

Dukes County Sheriff's information about false 911 calls and remedies to the problem:

Chief Klaren confirmed this uptick from cellphones and supported this notice to lock phone so voice activation or touch wont accidentally call a false emergency 911. Town Administrator said he has posted the notice and it is on our website at Chilmarkma.gov.

Political signs on private & public property and possible bylaw.

Chilmark legal counsel Ron Rappaport said Beetlebung Corner triangle ownership is Massachusetts State. Mr. Rappaport said the DOT contact sent information on policy signage not allowed but DOT will only take action if nuisance. Contact to make a complaint was provided to the town. There was discussion about political signs, Mr. Malkin asked for comment. Mr. Doty supported no political signs except for 48 hours prior to an election. Mr. Doty also supported signage for public service announcement by the town. Chairman Rossi recommended more thought and time to pull together prior to Political Sign Policy. Mr. Rappaport advised it to be carefully tailored to not infringe on free speech. Mr. Doty said Selectmen could work on this and then bring to Town Meeting. Mr. Malkin said our community has been very supportive of the demonstrations. The 4 large sandwich boards are making a message of Black Lives Matter rather than the defund police message I find offensive.

Mr. Malkin said the Chilmark Police Department and the Board of Selectmen members have been supporting Black Lives Matter. Chairman Rossi recommended working on it for the next couple weeks. Mr. Hannemann asked town counsel what other towns in Dukes County have as a signs bylaw. Mr. Rappaport said he did not know but could find out. Mr. Rappaport recommended that regulating signage might be better to do after the November elections. Tim Rich asked who determines what hateful language is. Mr. Rich said the ASL unions for signs allow for all or nothing. Mr. Rich (Who was Chilmark Police Chief for many years) said the Mass. DOT policy of the Police Chief determining what signs become an issue with public safety. Mr. Rich said he has a problem with that. There was extensive discussion. Police Chief Jonathan Klaren said he did not believe any of these signs (in the Beetlebung Corner triangle) impede safety and traffic flow. Mr. Rich said he will follow-up with the State DOT contact for more clarification.

USPS in Menemsha & Comfort Station

Mr. Carroll said there was a request from the public for a USPS Collection box in Menemsha for mail. Selectmen discussed this request and decided they don't want to add more congestion in that area and did not support. *No action was taken.*

TAC (Town Affairs Council) Summer Program - Sailing and Tennis & Yoga till August 31

Mr. Carroll discussed the Tennis program seeking to continue past August 31 as they have in our MOU. Mr. Carroll said the staffing protocol will need to review with Board of Health prior to extending past August 31 during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Chilmark School Principal Susan Stevens said she hopes the fencing will be gone so school can setup for distancing protocols. Mr. Carroll said the Tennis program people will need to meet with our Board of Health prior to any extensions. Mr. Doty supported the CCC (Chilmark Community Center) Committee get together to discuss this matter. Chairman Rossi said any activity will be suspended Sept 1, 2020 until proposals are reviewed and approved by Board of Health.

Principal Stevens outlined the possible school opening dates and needs.

School kindergarten and 1st grade ½ days to start total 20 students in the school building not CCC for Sept 17, 2020. Sept 29th would be the latest start. Mr. Doty asked what you predict for CCC use: Ms. Stevens said Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday would be specials teachers (music, art, theater, gym). Principal Stevens said weather is the indicator as to when they would use CCC. They will be outside when possible.

There was discussion about COVID 19 Cleaning of CCC. Mr. Carroll said the School use plan will need cleaning regiment in place. Mr. Carroll also talked about whether the town would have use of building on Saturday & Sunday.

Principal Stevens said she will contact Seth Karlinsky to find out if he might do the COVID 19 cleaning. Mr. Doty said Seth Karlinsky did excellent job for the town doing the COVID 19 cleaning protocols. Principal Stevens said if the town could notify us by Wednesday the week before for the next week use needs of the CCC.

Ms. Stevens said she had another topic for discussion tonight.

- 1.) Special Education fund on STM warrant

- 2.) COVID 19 testing 15 minutes machines organized by Dr. Zack only if a registered nurse can be present, as it is Chilmark would not be eligible.

Chairman Rossi said it's important for us to get this testing available if we can. Mr. Malkin asked Principal Stevens to find out what is needed and return to us with proposal. Principal Stevens replied \$39,000.00 + to fund nurse position. Chairman Rossi said we will look into this.

Planning Board:

Selectmen received recommendation from the Chilmark Planning Board for the following appointments. Planning Board Representative to the Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Town (Chilmark) Advisory Board (MVLB TAB): Peter B. Cook. Planning Board Representative to the Molly Flender Affordable Housing Trust Committee: Janet L. Weidner. Mr. Doty moved to appoint both of these positions as recommended. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Mr. Malkin spoke of the congestion at entrance to West Dock, there was discussion to expand the area to allow for vehicle to turn around. Mr. Cook confirmed that the Planning Board has a recommendation from Bill Brewster's plan that was done a few years ago and that we will share that with the Selectmen. Swimming Pool update: Mr. Cook said we have had no further work or proposals yet on this item.

School HVAC / green communities act:

Mr. Carroll said this proposal needs to be less than \$30,000.00; Te2 Construction bid \$30,000.00 so we might need to go out to bid for this. Chairman Rossi said is moving forward during COVID 19 advisable? Mr. Hannemann said we are at the final stages for securing the grant money to apply to the school HVAC. Mr. Hannemann spoke of cost estimates for projects needed at the Chilmark School. Mr. Hannemann said he has a strong feeling the total project will be less than \$300,000.00. Te2 should consider \$10.00 less. Mr. Hannemann supported work to move forward. Mr. Carroll recommended to schedule Zoom meeting with Te2 and Committee this coming week. This recommendation was supported by the Selectmen.

Electronic signature adoption:

Town Administrator Tim Carroll discussed the requirements that the Town Boards and Committees needed to perform for the electronic signature to be utilized during the COVID 19 pandemic. Mr. Doty moved to adopt the electronic signature procedure as presented by Mr. Carroll. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Warrant Items that were postponed from ATM meeting:

Mr. Carroll shared the list of items that were postponed at ATM that were intended to be put on the Special Town Meeting warrant. Chilmark Selectmen reviewed the list and there was discussion on how to fund some of these items. Mr. Doty said we won't hold a Special Town Meeting during COVID pandemic.

COVID -19 updates:

Mr. Carroll said the COVID 19 testing continues.

At 4: 34 PM with no further items for discussion Chairman Rossi adjourned meeting. Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase. **Approved 09/03/2020**

Document list:

- Draft Minutes from Selectmen's 8/4/2020 meeting
- Chilmark Police Chief's recommendation for Traffic Officer appointment
- Accidental 911 press release
- Chilmark Planning Board appointment recommendations
- Email from Planning Board Admin. Notifying postponement of swimming pool zoning bylaw
- Email from Planning Board Admin. To MVC on behalf of Chilmark Planning Board accepting funding to - move forward with Peaked Hill project engineering
- The Office of the Inspector General charts for local officials to use as a quick guide on public-procurement procedures
- Te2 engineering proposal for Chilmark School HVAC
- Memo re: Electronic Signatures and Municipalities