

Chilmark Select Board November 2, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Remotely present: Chairperson James Malkin, Warren Doty and Bill Rossi. Others: Tim Carroll, Diana DeBlase, Kara Shemeth, Ryan Rossi, Rich Saltzberg, MVTV, Peter & Sally Cook, Margaret Maida, Zach Harris, Hugh Weisman, Police Chief Klaren, Janet Weidner and Caitlin Cook. (17)

At 5:00 PM, Select Board Chairperson James Malkin called meeting to order on the Zoom platform.

Chairperson Malkin called for Moments of silence for Max McCreery longtime resident and member of Human Resource Board. Max was wonderful to work with and know. Also for Kent Healy who had done lots of consulting for our town. Kent was always clear, simple, and straightforward with his information.

Mr. Doty said Max signed up to be EMT and worked on Ambulance service. Kent worked hours and hours after the fire in Menemsha Harbor and was a great asset in our rebuilding. Mr. Rossi said Max passing is a loss of a very close friend.

Mr. Rossi said these are two big losses for our town and island.

Silence held for McCreery & Healy.

Minutes:

Draft minutes from October 14, 2021 & October 19, 2021 were reviewed. Mr. Doty said for meeting held 10/19/2021, minutes captured mood of meeting.

Mr. Doty moved to approve both meeting minutes as written. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: 3 Ayes

Nor'Easter Storm Oct 26-Oct-29, 2021 / impacts to Chilmark & Thank you(s):

Chairperson Malkin discussed the impacts of the storm and the efforts of the community in cleaning up. Mr. Rossi said he was 5 days without power at my home. Neighbor's generosity was greatly appreciated. Mr. Doty said he and Nan drove around Wednesday morning and were very impressed at how quick our roads were passable. Mr. Doty said a big thanks to Keith Emin or Highway Superintendent and Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw. Chairperson Malkin said Police Department also really helped a lot.

Nor'easter – Thank you Continued...

Chairperson Malkin said he saw Sargent Slavin had lights on pulled over cruiser and was chain-sawing tree across road himself.

Mr. Carroll said Eversource did a remarkable job as well. Chairperson Malkin said communication from Eversource was very good.

Dump Truck accident 10/22/2021 on State Rd

Mr. Carroll said Chilmark was aided during incident by West Tisbury and Aquinnah Emergency responders. Chairperson Malkin said thank you to department members and mutual aid and John Keene for efforts in clearing machinery out of roadway.

Harbor Department - offer of two harbor users to donate material and labor to repair west dock to prevent bird nesting:

Chairperson Malkin said we have an offer from two harbor users to repair area where birds are nesting. Concern is private individual to buy item, other individual offering the labor. If town should be doing this, we should do it. Potential of going in direction we did not intend.

Harbormaster Rossi said item was low on his list of priorities but on his radar. We can address next year with maintenance funds.

No action was taken at this time.

Retirement Notification – Town Treasurer Melanie Becker:

Chairperson Malkin said he is sad and surprised but Melanie is sure of this.

Chairperson Malkin said we thank her for her service to the Town of Chilmark for the past 22 years. Ms. Becker has given astute care to our town finances and borrowing through the years maintaining our AAA Bond rating.

Discussion turned to changing position from elected to appointed. Mr. Doty said he spoke with Melanie today she has read agenda and is comfortable with it but cannot attend tonight.

Mr. Carroll expressed a big thank you to Melanie Becker to offer a month overlap stay on to train new hire. Mr. Carroll said he is very grateful for that commitment. Chairperson Malkin said her (Ms. Becker) concern for the Town has been extraordinary.

Mr. Rossi said he first worked with Melanie during the time she was Administrative Assistant to the Zoning Board of Appeals many years ago.

Mr. Rossi said he remembered being upset that they were losing her to the position of Town Treasure but obviously, it was a very good move for the Town.

Mr. Doty said when Melanie Becker speaks she always choses her words well and very thoughtfully.

Mr. Carroll said on April 27, 2021 position for Treasurer is up for election.

Mr. Doty said he has strong opinion that the collection/treasurer combination is not for Chilmark. Keeping collector as is, is the correct way to go. Mr. Doty it is time to go with appointed position for the Treasurer position. Our FinCom is very good as our financial watchdog. Mr. Rossi said intuitively this should be a hired position. Need a level of sophistication and experience for this position.

Retirement Notification – Town Treasurer Melanie Becker Continued...

Chairperson Malkin said he agrees with both Bill & Warren. This position has become very complex through the years. FinCom has become more and more focused not a rubberstamp board by any means. Comfortable with moving to changing this to an appointed position. Chairperson Malkin recommended that the Human Resources Board get involved with working with Melanie Becker to get job description together for advertising this position.

Mr. Carroll said he is not sure you can appoint a non-resident with timing we have. Chairperson Malkin said Select Board has endorsed appointed position, talk to town council, and ask how this can be done as exponentially as possible. Mr. Doty moved to move forward in transitioning to an appointed Treasure position. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. Chairperson Malkin asked if there was any public comment before voting. *There was no public comment* **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Mr. Carroll said he would put ad for position vacancy in newspaper tomorrow. There was discussion about timeline and forming a screening committee. Mr. Carroll said Ms. Becker is willing to be a consultant to committee but not interested in being on it.

Chairperson Malkin recommended three member screening committee. This committee may utilize Treasurer, Tax collector and Accountant as consultants. Mr. Doty proposed screening committee consist; Select person, Human Resource Board (HRB) member and Tim Carroll. Mr. Rossi said he could be available early or later in day to serve as the Select Board member on the screening committee.

Mr. Carroll said he would put all this to HRB on Thursday during their meeting. Mr. Carroll discussed how we would cover funding for overlap salary at ATM. Mr. Doty said do not rush this process, as we want good applicants. Chairperson Malkin said we would hire a strong candidate.

STM review warrant and tent:

Mr. Carroll said the weather for Nov 6th is expected to be North winds at 9 mph and temperature 52 degrees. Mr. Carroll said he has ordered two tents side by side to become 30 x 40 to help if weather becomes rainy. Mr. Carroll said he has Deficit spending to the Chilmark Community Center account for the additional cost for tents and sound system. Mr. Doty said he had seen the additional cost for the sound system and said that is money well spent.

Planning Board:

Peter Cook, Janet Weidner and Hugh Weisman were present from the Planning Board to discuss the proposed amendment to the Town Bylaws. Mr. Weisman said pickle-ball is a half court sport that has become very popular. Mr. Weisman said this would legalize with Special permit and control as we do tennis courts.

Planning Board Continued...

Mr. Doty said our (Select Board) job is to say go ahead and hold public hearing. Ms. Weidner said this would be for 2022 ATM. Caitlin Cook said the pickle ball material that is used is not recyclable or sustainable. Mr. Doty said that is appropriate comment to make at the Planning Board public hearing.

Mr. Doty moved to accept suggestion and authorize public hearings. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

MV Public schools - All Island School Committee request for a representative to work with the Negotiating Sub Committee:

Mr. Carroll said Richard Williams had worked as representative for Chilmark in the past. Chairperson Malkin said Steve Lewenberg said he would serve if offered on zoom he can make all of the meetings. Mr. Doty said he thought meetings would be in person. Chairperson Malkin asked Mr. Carroll confirm if ok to attend via zoom. Mr. Doty moved to appoint Steve Lewenberg to work with the negotiations subcommittee for Island Schools. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Mr. Doty said Correspondence from Caitlin is a thoughtful letter.

Ms. Cook said her letter asks that Columbus Day change to Indigenous People's day going forward. Cultivating change across our island. Mr. Doty said West Tisbury has taken this action already. Our neighbor (Aquinnah) is a federally recognized tribe. Vote to change. Mr. Rossi said he is in favor of it as well but important enough to put on Annual Town Meeting warrant. Chairperson Malkin said yes let's put this on ATM warrant and voters will act on it.

Link to view letter:

https://www.chilmarkma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2951/f/agendas/indigenous_peoples_day_sent_by_caitlin_cook_xaitlincgmail.com_.pdf

News reporter Rich Saltzberg asked if transition of Treasurer Position needed to go to town meeting vote. Chairperson Malkin said yes.

At 6:15 PM with no further items for discussion, Chairperson Malkin asked for motion to adjourn. Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn. Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 11/23/2021

Document list:

- Draft minutes from Select Board meetings held on 10/14/2021 & 10/19/2021
- Doty's report of the fine road work done after the storm
- Town Clerks certification of receiving Treasurer's resignation / retirement
- Special Town Meeting warrant posted in Vineyard Gazette

Document list continued...

- Planning Boards proposed Zoning Bylaw Amendments to include pickle ball courts and similar sports courts in regulations
- Request from School Superintendent D'Andrea for Chilmark to appoint representative to work with negotiations sub-committee working with 5 MTA bargaining units.
- Consideration request from C. Cook to designate Indigenous Peoples Day to replace Columbus Day
- Division of Marine Fisheries notice of Seasonal Status Change to Open shellfishing Nov 1 and auto status to Closed August 1 2022 / Stonewall Pond