

Chilmark Select Board & Board of Health Joint August 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present via remote Zoom participation: Select Board members: Chairperson James Malkin, Warren Doty and Bill Rossi. Board of Health: Matt Poole, Tim Carroll, Kara Shemeth, Kate Dario, Luke Lefebber, Police Chief Jonathan Klaren, George Rivera, Erik Peckar, Fred Khedouri, Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw, Ebba Hierta, Sean Slavin, Melanie Becker, Richard Andre, Saskia & David Vanderhoop, Ann Wallace, Rob Hannemann, Stanly Larsen, Margaret Maida, Nancy Street, Samantha (*no last name given*), Diana DeBlase, Michelle of MVTV, reporter Lucas Thors,

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

Chairman Malkin asked if we had a quorum of Board of Health. Matt Poole said no it was just him so far.

Mask mandate for Menemsha:

Chairperson Malkin asked if the Select Board was in favor of re-instating Mask Mandate for Menemsha basin as it is a congested area. Mr. Doty said he thought it is a good idea. Mr. Rossi said he recommends to err on side of caution, and supports. Chilmark Board of Health member Matt Poole said it is an appropriate gesture, but can't enforce an outdoor mask order. Mr. Poole said the cases (Quantity) we are seeing very concerning. Mr. Poole said we (BOH) have signage on hand if this get passed tonight.

Chairperson Malkin said we have been working in concert with other island towns. Chairperson Malkin recommended to hold on acting this till our next meeting.

Police Chief Klaren said his department is short staffed, and order would be hard to enforce.

Reduction of parking for Menemsha & Consideration of stopping VTA service:

Mr. Rossi said the Menemsha parking is not as hard as past years because not many places are open. Chairman Malkin said we have 10 days left (till Labor day) let's carry on without limiting the parking spaces. Mr. Doty said leave parking spaces in Menemsha and VTA bus (VTA sunset shuttle ends 8/31/21) as is. There was no action to adoption of outdoor masking in Menemsha at this time. Mr. Carroll said the VTA will on the last day of August be stopping sunset service.

Discussion of requiring vaccination for all town staff:

Chairperson Malkin said Jack Collins our legal counsel was very helpful with this and supplied us some wording if we choose to act on this.

Pam Bunker spoke about not supporting this action.

Mr. Doty said the US Secretary of Defense has mandated that all armed forces must be vaccinated. Mr. Doty said our Governor Baker mandated all employees of State be vaccinated.

Mr. Doty said in general he is in favor of vaccination mandate with religious and medical exceptions.

Mr. Poole said we have a little time to kick this around. Rodney Bunker asked why vaccinated people are considered safer than non in spreading the COVID-DELTA variant.

Discussion of requiring vaccination Continued...

Mr. Poole said we are experiencing 50% breakthrough cases at this time. Mr. Poole said being vaccinated prevents serious illness from COVID. Mr. Poole said wearing a mask protects the others around the wearer. Chairman Malkin recommended no action at this time and might join Board of Health meeting next week to continue discussion.

Impact of Henri:

Chairman Malkin said Chilmark was prepared and wanted to thank both Fire Chief Bradshaw and Beach Superintendent for their updates in preparedness. Thankfully we did not get the brunt of the storm.

Minutes:

Mr. Rossi said he had not had chance to review draft minutes. Chairperson Malkin tabled approval of draft minutes of Select Board meeting held 8/10/2021 till next regular meeting.

Vineyard Wind:

Richard Andre and Erik Peckar from Vineyard Power spoke in support and on behalf of the Vineyard Wind project.

Mr. Andre spoke of the Community benefits from Vineyard Wind.

Mr. Andre said we have 2 asks;

- 1.) Chilmark appoint a member to the advisory committee for the fund receiving from Vineyard Wind
- 2.) Chilmark approve and submit a letter of support for Vineyard Wind bid.

Mr. Andre screen shared area mapping (see Select Board agenda for power point). Cape Wind failed application was proposing 3 miles off Chilmark shores. Vineyard Wind proposal is 14 miles off shore.

Mr. Andre gave a full presentation. *Link to presentation slides:*

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

Mr. Andre said a benefit to the community with this would be lower (energy) rates for low income by subsidizing their bills.

Chairperson Malkin thanked Mr. Andre for this presentation. Chairperson Malkin asked if Vineyard Wind had any consideration to bringing any direct power to Martha's Vineyard.

Mr. Andre said no.

Chairperson Malkin asked if there were any recommendations for representation on committee for advising about funds coming from Vineyard Wind. Mr. Doty suggested someone from the Energy committee. Mr. Hannemann said he would see to that. Mr. Hannemann said an agreement will be helpful as we move our energy planning forward.

Vineyard Wind

Mr. Andre said why send letter of support: Vineyard Wind is committing \$100 million to Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Andre said in another bid we want to add to the 7.5 (million dollar) resiliency fund. Mr. Andre said he is confident we can if awarded. Chairperson Malkin said we (Chilmark community) don't know what the other bids can offer Chilmark. Chairperson Malkin said you have been proactive in coming to us and the support you have brought to Chilmark and Island community.

Mr. Rossi asked if Mr. Andre could be more specific as to what the future benefits (To Chilmark) will be. Mr. Andre said 100% fossil fuel free; funds to help with transition. Moderate income rate discounts too with cost subsidies.

Mr. Doty said for the past 15 years he has been paying close attention to off shore wind. Mr. Doty said he still sees 14 miles out as untouched wilderness. But that train has left the station. Mr. Doty said there are ½ dozen developers doing this, and Vineyard Wind so far is the only company having something on Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Doty said he is impressed with what they have done at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School to offer training for Island students to become technicians and possibly be selected to work the Vineyard Wind project.

Mr. Khedouri said some of this is positive, but It's a process issue. Mr. Khedouri referred to his letter to the Select Board and Thanked Board for opportunity to speak. Link to Khedouri's letter:

[https://www.chilmarkma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2951/f/agendas/letter to selct board augst 24th meeting 1.pdf](https://www.chilmarkma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf2951/f/agendas/letter_to_selct_board_augst_24th_meeting_1.pdf)

Mr. Doty moved to send a letter of support from the Chilmark Select Board. Mr. Rossi said he seconds motion but wants to understand the process issue. Mr. Rossi said he would like to think about it. Mr. Andre said this RFP was issued a couple month ago, and is due Sept 17th so time is of the essence. Mr. Andre proposed that the Select Board can offer others who come to you support letters. Chairperson Malkin said he is comfortable with the motion, If other bidder comes with better offer, we can send letter. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Chilmark Town Affairs Council –Report Update:

Mr. Doty said he attended meeting and is up to date on this process. The report was going to be submitted yesterday but the Chairman of CTAC got a 3:00 AM call that his mother was very ill and prior to his arriving his mother died. Mr. Doty said the CTAC put report on hold another 2 -3 days. Mr. Doty said many hours have been committed interviewing all persons involved. Chairperson Malkin said he is very sorry about Jeff's (CTAC Chairperson) loss.

BOEM -SEARCH Sunrise Wind - invitation to be consulting party:

Mr. Carroll said this notice from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management was sent to us as an invitation to consult on the Sunrise Wind Farm Project. Mr. Doty said this proposed windfarm site is south of Cuttyhunk and all power generated is going to Road Island. Mr. Doty said he was not going to volunteer time for this board. Chairperson Malkin said we will pass on this request, no need to be consultant on this.

Completion of Initial Evaluation Period & Recommendations regarding Year-Round status:

Mr. Carroll said both Alison Kisselgof and Kara Shemeth both received glowing evaluations and their self-evaluations were insightful.

Mr. Rossi moved to approve year-round employment status for both Alison Kisselgof and Kara Shemeth. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Public Safety Building Committee – Update:

Mr. Rossi said the Committee made adjustments to agreements to stay away from wetlands. The Committee is working on new (vehicle) parking plan. Mr. Rossi reported that the Site Review Committee approved the plan and next we have Zoning Board of Appeals meeting 8/26/2021.

Fire Chief - Update:

Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw said the station has been carrying on with training firefighters.

Summer Operations- Update:

Mr. Carroll said Seasonal positions are short staffed. Chairperson Malkin recommended review of budgeting for next year staffing.

Police Chief Jonathan Klaren said there will no longer be in MA for special officers. Only have our pool that is already trained. Mr. Rossi asked how the USCG personnel was working out to help fill positions. Police Chief Klaren said he got 2 applications from the USCG but it did not workout. Mr. Rossi thanked Chief Klaren for trying.

MOU with Chilmark & UIRSD - Chilmark School HVAC project:

Chairperson Malkin said this project is now estimated to cost over 1Milion dollars. We need to create an inter-municipal agreement. This will be required if Chilmark going for loan with our desirable credit bond rating. Chairperson Malkin asked fellow Select Board members if he could work with Town Treasurer Melanie Becker to get document drafted and then bring back to review with Select Board. Mr. Rossi and Mr. Doty agreed that was a good plan. Chairperson Malkin said once we approve then we will send to the UIRSD.

Committee Appointments for FY2022:

Chairperson Malkin Tabled appointments till next Select Board meeting.

Granicus - online permitting & services: proposal for <\$10,000 start-up, and approximately \$10,00 annual service fee for a three-year term:

Mr. Carroll said we have an opportunity to come onboard with Edgartown taking the lead. Cost \$9,800 startup fee and annual with 5% increase each year. Mr. Carroll reported that he has received support for moving forward from staff who reviewed the product.

Mr. Doty moved to move forward seek fund transfer. Chairperson Malkin seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: 3 Ayes

American Recovery Act Plan Memorandum - draft recommendation for screening committee:

Mr. Doty supported submitting public health initiatives. Chairperson Malkin added First responders. Mr. Rossi who is on the County Board who will be reviewing applications said we have only 2 applications and we extended deadline. Mr. Rossi said we are considering Quarterly application for funds.

Chairperson Malkin said this has been a long meeting and asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn, Mr. Doty seconded. At 6:35 PM meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 09/14/2021

Document list:

- Email from Erik Peckar confirming Vineyard Power will present for Vineyard Wind to get support for their next application for wind project south of Martha's Vineyard.
- Slides for Vineyard Wind Project
- BOEM seeking consultant from Chilmark for Sunrise wind farm project application review
- Draft letter of support for Vineyard Wind application from Chilmark
- Draft minutes from Select Board meeting held 8/10/2021
- Letter from Frederick N Khedouri with his concerns of the process that Vineyard Wind is asking Chilmark to support