

Town of Chilmark
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
August 6, 2012

MODERATOR: Everett H. Poole
TOWN CLERK: Jennifer L. Christy
REGISTRARS: Judy G.L. Mayhew, Laurisa Rich
CONSTABLE: Marshall E. Carroll, III
TELLERS: Andrew O. Fischer, Mary Boyd

At the close of voter registration on July 27, 2012 there were eight hundred and eighty-seven (887) registered voters in the Town of Chilmark. With eighty (80) voters present at the Special Town Meeting, 9% of the total number of registered voters, the Moderator called the meeting to order at 8:03PM.

Constable Marshall E. Carroll, III attested to the posting of the warrant.

Article 1. To see if the town will vote to approve Menemsha Harbor projects funded by the Commonwealth known as Phase Three. Such plan being on file in the office of the Town Clerk.

The article was read by the Moderator and moved and seconded. The Moderator opened the article for discussion. Selectman Warren Doty stood to present the Selectmen's proposal verbally and through a slide show display. Selectman Doty described the fuel dock and transient yacht dock plans.

Selectman Bill Rossi was recognized and stood to advocate the Selectmen's plan. He noted highlights of the plan: the increased safety of a floating dock for transient boaters and the lack of negative impact the plan will have on the aesthetic character of Menemsha.

Selectman Jonathan Mayhew was recognized and stood to advocate the Selectmen's plan. He noted a number of Chilmark residents who support the plan.

Judie Jardin was recognized and noted three issues: the Town is now burdened with a large loan for the drive-on dock (Phase 2) when it is possible the current grant money (\$629,026) could have been used to offset the cost of that dock construction, 'Phase 3' is an incorrect characterization of the current Board of Selectmen plan being considered since this work was originally planned to be done before the Menemsha Fire of 2011, and the great need for a long-range plan for expenditures of this sort so that voters are not having to decide on large expenditures without a vision of the long-term needs of the town. Ms. Jardin requested the Selectmen address the issue of the long-term plan and asked for clarification on the first two issues. Ms. Jardin also questioned the angle of the fuel dock as planned and asked whether there were reasons why the angle had been altered during the planning process.

Selectman Doty stood and noted the efforts to obtain funding for the repairs to Menemsha after the fire.

Harbormaster Dennis Jason was recognized and outlined his position in support of the Board of Selectmen's plan. He specifically noted safety and durability as the factors which influenced his decision.

Mary Beth Grady was recognized and stood to thank the Selectmen for their attention to accessibility in their plan.

Judie Jardin was recognized and suggested the Selectmen consider investigating making Menemsha an 'Enterprise Fund Area'. Ms. Jardin felt it would be beneficial to the town if the costs of the harbor could be identified and, through an 'Enterprise Fund' process, Menemsha could start to support itself.

Mr. Lev Wlodyka was recognized and asked Selectmen to confirm the safety of the floating dock plan through the height of the pilings. The Harbormaster Dennis Jason confirmed the plan would include higher pilings. Marshall E. Carroll, III, owner of the Menemsha gas station, was recognized and stood to state his opposition to the Selectmen's plan, his agreement with Ms. Jardin that the grant money should have been used to pay down the loan on the drive-on dock, and noted the Chilmark Master Plan's reference to no alteration to the character of Menemsha.

Selectman Mayhew noted there are already floating docks at the end of the existing transient dock.

Mary Boyd was recognized and advocated the replacement of the fuel and transient dock with the same material as currently exists today. Ms. Boyd noted her concern that the amount of dredging needed under the transient dock is underestimated.

Andrew Goldman, member of the Harbor Advisory Committee, was recognized and stood to voice his support of the Selectmen's plan.

Wayne Iacono was recognized and expressed doubt the Selectmen's plan would contribute an appreciable benefit to Menemsha in terms of safety or usability.

Jane Slater, Chairperson of the Historical Commission, was recognized and read a prepared statement from the commission stating there would be no impingement on the historical character of Menemsha if the Selectmen's plan were implemented.

Former Selectman and Menemsha business owner, Frank M. Fenner, Jr. was recognized and stood to voice his support of the Selectmen's plan.

Ms. Jardin was recognized and questioned what was originally presented to the Seaport Advisory Council to receive the grant monies.

Selectman Doty was recognized and responded the original Seaport Advisory Council presentation was a general plan with only an estimate of the cost.

Jay Lagemann was recognized, stood and provided the last comment on the article to opine that the character of Menemsha is not at stake since the area has already changed greatly over the last 50 years and, therefore, the retention of traditional wooden docks is not a crucial factor in the overall effort to preserve the character of the fishing village.

The Moderator called for a voice vote and asked all those in favor to say aye. The Moderator called for all those opposed to say nay. The Moderator stated the article appears to carry and questioned the voters on their desire to stand for a count. The Moderator called for a standing vote. All those in favor stood. Tellers, Andrew

Fischer and Mary Boyd counted. All those opposed stood. Tellers counted again. The Moderator stated the motion carried, 40-25.

Article 2. To see if the town will vote to approve the following request of the Community Preservation Committee:

To see if the town will vote to appropriate from the Community Preservation Housing Reserve Fund the sum of \$75,000.00 to continue funding of the Chilmark Housing Year-Round Rental Conversion Program, managed by the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority.

The article was read by the Moderator and moved and seconded. The Moderator opened the article for discussion. There was no discussion. The Moderator brought the article to a vote. Article 2 was passed unanimously.

The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved at 9:17 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer L. Christy
Town Clerk
August 9, 2012