

Minutes
Tisbury Board of Selectmen
Meeting: Friday, December 2, 2016
Vineyard Haven Public Library, 200 Main Street, Tisbury at 1:00PM

Present: Jay Grande, Town Administrator; Melinda Loberg, Tristan Israel, and Larry Gomez, Selectmen; Barbara Lampson, Executive Assistant; Jeffrey Canha, Glenn Pachico, Michael Jampel.

Meeting called to order 1:06 PM

WORKSESSION:

REVIEW OF NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT:

Selectmen Tristan Israel provides overview of meeting purpose which is to discuss whether the Town wants to pursue the discussion of a Natural Resources Department, a Natural Resources Director, and the relative possible merits thereto. He explains that the recent Compensation and Classification Study done by the Town included a category for a Natural Resources Director, that it was one of the Selectmen's Goals to investigate this proposal, and that this is a direction that other towns in the area and on the Cape have been moving in as well.

He states that Town Administrator Jay Grande has been working on this, in regards to personnel structure, budget and staffing for the idea. Jay Grande explains that he has reviewed the concept with the various Boards that would be involved in such a structure to hear their ideas and concerns. He listed the concerns that could be managed by such a department that are currently underserved in the current departmental structure:

- Management of storm-water
- Management of mooring fields and structures
- Management of beaches and recreational beaches
- Protection of well water resources
- Identification and programming of infrastructure that will impact the natural resources of the Town, and the Town's economy in relation to that.
- Natural resources and related enforcement activities related the preservation thereof, such as in regards to consistency, public education, strategy, and revenue generation such as grant funding.
- Better and more consistent mon

Mr. Grande states that enforcement has been an ongoing struggle. He states that the Town needs to have a more coordinated response to training, shared services, and that this would better serve the Town and the public in regards to service and fiscal management. He states the he expects requests for more staffing from both Harbor and Shellfish Departments, and that a Natural Resources structure could provide a synergy of costs and staffing solutions in a shared way that could be very efficient.

He states further that the two Departments have done their best to work together, but that this is not the same as working actually together, under one department with centralized direction. He then passes out the Compensation and Classification study recommendations for the proposed Natural Resources Director. He states the recommended duties and skills of a Natural Resources Director:

- Overall management skills and experience in regards to personnel, finance, and structural management
- Skills and experience in land and marine use management and planning
- Overall knowledge of shellfish, harbor, and other water-based resources / needs
- That this person would identify revenue streams, such as grant-based funding, and be able to pursue them
- That the director would oversee day-to-day Harbor and Shellfish operations as well as any other concerns related to Natural Resources.

(A budget for the proposed Department is passed out).

Comments are as follows:

- That only real increase over Harbor and Shellfish current budgets is the Directors salary (Gomez)
- That hopefully there would be offsets for this based on grant-funding secured by the Director (Grande)
- That the staffing could be cross-trained to cover both departments (Harbor and Shellfish) in regards to increased coverage
- That models show the benefits of having the Shellfish and Harbor under one Department.
- That one model shows the Natural Resources Director as a Nat. Res. Director / Harbormaster
- That it would be ideal to move/ cut from other departments to offset the cost of such a proposal.
- That this model would increase the ability to bring in revenue, and define new revenue streams.

Selectman Larry Gomez asks Mr. Grande what background the Natural Resources Director would come from, and Mr. Grande lists the following:

- A background in Natural Resources Management, Environmental Engineering,
- Maybe a stronger background in storm-water management
- Some crossover with Board of Health concerns,
- A background & experience in enforcement.
- Experience on the water, and with water-related and conservation topics and concerns

General discussion ensues and covers the topics of:

Loberg: that our Town economy and quality of life depend on our natural resources, in regards to fisheries, tourism, and so it is a timely discussion.

Grande: that currently the Town has a conservation department with one agent who is only here 1 day per week.

Israel: that currently the Town Administrator is working on a seawall project and a Natural Resources Director could take on some of this responsibility.

Loberg: And then there would be more time for one of them to look for grant funding for these and other projects and programs.

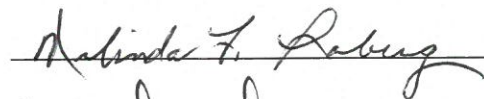
Motion: To approve the Town Administrator pursuing a model of a Natural Resources Department to present to the Town at the Annual Town Meeting. *Tristan Israel moves, Melinda Loberg seconds;*

motion passes: 2 ayes, 1 nay (Gomez).

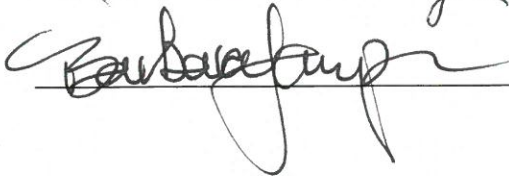
Discussion on the motion included topics such as where funding would come from, whether staff can be cross-trained. Glenn Pachico asks how this would affect shellfish enforcement, which he states is currently lacking. Jeff Canha asks who has direct supervisory responsibility over Harbor and Shellfish, and is answered that currently that responsibility lies with the Town Administrator. Jay Grande states that overall there has been a lack of coverage of all the waterbodies and that monitoring people from a distance can be difficult.

Meeting adjourned 2:26PM.

Approval of Minutes for Tisbury Board of Selectmen Meeting for Tuesday, December 2, 2016:



Melinda Loberg, Chair



Barbara Lampson, Executive Assistant