

**Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee,  
6:30PM, Wednesday, July 7, 2021  
at the Tisbury Emergency Services Building**

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**Present:** Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Jynell Kristal, Mary Ellen Larsen,  
Rachel Orr, Allan Rogers\*, Lesley Segal, Dan Seidman,  
Sarah York,

**Others:** Recorder – Marni Lipke,

\* TFC members late arrivals or early departures.

**Call Meeting to Order**

- The Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) was called to order at 6:36PM. Due to problems getting sworn in, Dan Seidman could not vote at this meeting.

- *(Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*

**Introductions**

- Five year member Sarah York was the owner of C.B. Stark jewelers and President of the Vineyard Haven Business Assoc.—her family had finally bought a house. She believed in participating in government to inform voting and opinions, and was interested in money matters.
- Acupuncturist Nancy Gilfoy (now in her 3<sup>rd</sup> term) was recruited for the FinCom by long-time activist Mev Goode. Being Chair stretched her abilities and gave her an opportunity to use different skills.
- Fourth term veteran, Mary Ellen Larsen was also recruited by Mev Goode and enjoyed learning about how the Town worked, and found her service very enlightening.
- Audiologist Lesley Segal (in her 2<sup>nd</sup> term, recruited by Ned Orlean) believed in giving back to the community. She enjoyed her service and agreed it was enlightening to have a sense of the pulse of the Town.
- Long time FinCom veteran Jynell Kristal was a business owner, had children in the school system, and also enjoyed getting to know the Town players, the pulse and how the finances worked.
- New member Dan Seidman, had an affinity for numbers as he worked in investments, bond offerings, etc. He had served on the Planning Board and was encouraged by friends to run for the FinCom.
- New member Rachel Orr came from the deep South and had become passionate about the precious Northern tradition of participatory democracy, for example on the right/privilege of voting every dime the Town and its taxpayers spent. She considered the FinCom was the place to learn about Town finances. She had worked for 24 years in legal and real estate research and hoped her skills would be a good fit.

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- Allan Rogers, recruited by Mary Ellen Larsen, was appointed to a vacancy last year and elected this year. Before retiring he managed large numbers of people at a Texas distribution company but was born and raised in Vermont. He worked part time for the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA).

**Election of Officers**

- *MARY ELLEN LARSEN NOMINATED NANCY GILFOY AS CHAIR; ALLAN ROGERS SECONDED; NANCY GILFOY ACCEPTED;*
- *ALLAN ROGERS NOMINATED SARAH YORK AS VICE CHAIR; LESLEY SEGAL SECONDED; SARAH YORK ACCEPTED;*
- *NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED;*
- NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* The FinCom expressed their appreciation and thanks for Nancy Gilfoy's fantastic job as Chair, which they knew to be a lot of work.

**Committee Assignments/Recommendations** (See below: Actions.)

Some committee meeting times could be difficult for those with standard work schedules.

**Embarkation**

**Energy** – This Committee was in flux, due to a change in members and resignation of Chair Bill Straw. Rachel Orr had already done some research in the field during her service on the Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC). (Town Administrator Jay Grande was the Tisbury Cape Light Compact representative.)

**Sewer Advisory**

**Water Resources** – Later in the meeting, the FinCom discussed the comprehensive planning around wastewater (sewerage, hybrid or alternate/stormwater/nitrogen-remediation/etc.), and coordination with Planning Board Town Master Plan. Preliminary consultant studies and information were on the Town website under Water Resources.

- *JYNELL KRISTAL MOVED TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:*
- *EMBARKATION COMMITTEE – JYNELL KRISTAL,*
- *ENERGY COMMITTEE – RACHEL ORR,*
- *SEWER ADVISORY BOARD – DAN SEIDMAN PENDING FORMAL SWEARING IN,*
- *WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE – NANCY GILFOY;*
- SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

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**Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC)**

MVRHSC – Liaison - Sarah York

• *NANCY GILFOY MOVED TO APPOINT MARY ELLEN LARSEN AS THE TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL CAPITAL COMMITTEE; ALLAN ROGERS AND SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Tisbury School Committee** – Liaison – Jynell Kristal

**Planning Board** – Liaisons – Lesley Segal and Allan Rogers. This Board also met Wednesday evenings. The coming work on the Town Master Plan was of particular significance.

**Others**

Tisbury Climate Committee – Liaison - Rachel Orr. Chair Nancy Gilfoy was lobbying to have a member on this new and important Committee.

Tisbury School Building Committee – Liaison – Sarah York

Affordable Housing Committee – Lesley Segal and Dan Seidman were members of the Committee.

Municipal Housing Trust – Dan Seidman was a member of this Board.

**Future Meetings** (See below: Actions.)

- The FinCom enjoyed the casual discussion and personal interactions of this first in-person meeting and discussed future formats regarding:
  - convenience for members who travel or had conflicting work schedules;
  - public participation;
  - difficulties of in-person meetings when masking and the status of the pandemic, covid variants, vaccination rates, protective behavior, etc.;
  - technological challenges of hybrid (Zoom/in-person) meetings;
  - occasional or frequent in-person meetings during budget season.

IT WAS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CONSENSUS TO MEET BY ZOOM FOR NOW WITH RECONSIDERATION ON A STEP-BY-STEP BASIS.

- Members also agreed to retain the 6:30PM Wednesday meeting time, possibly meeting on alternate Wednesdays from the Planning Board.
- Members asked to interview FinCom vacancy candidate(s) before a joint Select Board/FinCom meeting to appoint.
- Town Treasurer Jonathan Snyder's financial orientation presentation was very informative (see 7/1/20 Minutes p.2).
- Rachel Orr suggested posting FinCom meeting on the Town website calendar to increase public awareness and participation.

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**Adjournment**

• *ALLAN ROGERS MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:30PM; SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

**Appendix A: Meetings/Events**

- **TFC – TBD 6:30PM, Wednesdays – by Zoom**

**Appendix B: Actions**

- All: consider candidates/appointees to fill FinCom vacancies.
- Nancy: invite Jonathan Snyder to give orientation.
- Nancy: schedule candidate interview(s) & joint TSB/FinCom meeting.
- Nancy: send authorization to Heidi R. for Rachel to post meetings.
- Nancy/Marni: send FinCom appointment letter to Select Board.
- Nancy: email link to Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) Finance Committee manual.
- Marni: send out new member packets & glossary to all.

FY22 Reserve Fund spending tally – Balance: \$100,000

**Appendix C: Documents on File:**

- Agenda 7/7/21
- Gilfoy email re: FinCom Meeting 6/16/21

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Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

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Date

Minutes approved 11/3/21