

Tisbury Finance and Advisory Committee
6:30PM, Wednesday, June 1, 2022
Emergency Services Facility Training Room

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Present: Chair Nancy Gilfoy, Louise Clough, Jynell Kristal,
Mary Ellen Larsen, John Oliver, Rachel Orr*, Allan Rogers,
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 6:34PM. (*Recorder's note: Discussions are summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.*)

Welcome and Introductions

- Chair Nancy Gilfoy welcomed everyone and thanked John Oliver for joining the FinCom. The members introduced themselves.
- Rachel Orr was a researcher who tended to get into the details and had lived on the Island since she was 22 years old. She attended FinCom and Tisbury Select Board (TSB) meetings before joining the FinCom to finish out a vacant term, and was now elected to her first 3-year term.
- Sarah York was President of the Tisbury Business Association. She became interested in joining the FinCom (in 2017) due to school issues, wanting more parent representation and knowledge of how things worked. She was also on the School Building Committee.
- Jynell Kristal was in her fourth term (12 years) as a FinCom member and originally was also motivated by student/children issues. Her husband had been on the Select Board and she was interested in how things connected.
- Allan Rogers was born and raised in Vermont before moving to Texas where he met his wife who was born and raised a Vineyarder. They retired here and he took a part-time job with the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA). Mary Ellen Larsen recruited him to the FinCom and this was his third year.
- Louise Clough was appointed to a FinCom vacancy and found it a great way to learn about Town Meetings, Department heads, and how Town government worked. She had been living on the Island part-time since 1978 and full time for 3 years. She commended the FinCom as a great committee.
- John Oliver was born and raised a Vineyarder, being part of the family that owned John's Fish Market. His involvement was triggered by a son in the School, interest in learning more about the Town, a voice for the next generation, and as a model on giving back to the community. He was sworn in but could not vote until he completed the Ethics Certificate.

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- Mary Ellen Larsen was in her fourth term on the FinCom but this would be her last term. She retired 5 years ago from the Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH). The FinCom was a great way to figure out how government worked, and didn't work.
- Nancy Gilfoy was in her third term and had moved to the Island from Baltimore 24 years ago. She had worked extensively in non-profits (Planned Parenthood, University, etc.) and was now an acupuncturist. Her neighbor, late FinCom member Mev Goode recruited her into the FinCom and she found it a great way to find out what's going on and what's not. She felt the Town was at a critical place where a number issues and projects would be playing out in the next 5 -10 years.
- Dan Seidman was not present. This was his first year on the FinCom although he had been quite active in government, Planning Board, Affordable Housing Committee, Dukes County Regional Housing Authority, etc. He was a financial manager/advisor by profession.

Election of Officers

The FinCom praised Nancy Gilfoy's skill and organization, particularly praising this year's smooth budget process. Ms. Gilfoy felt that after 2 years she was establishing good relationships with Town officials and departments. Sarah York was available outside business hours and was good team help in consultations.

- There was a discussion on whether there should be a Clerk/Secretary.
- *SARAH YORK NOMINATED THE CURRENT SLATE OF NANCY GILFOY AS CHAIR AND SARAH YORK AS VICE CHAIR; JYNELL KRISTAL AND ALLAN ROGERS SECONDED; NANCY GILFOY AND SARAH YORK ACCEPTED; NOMINATIONS WERE CLOSED; NOMINATIONS PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Committee Reports

- Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) was proceeding with its regular work after the vote to move forward with Option #3 (see 5/11/22 Minutes p.2-3). Bid advertisement was targeted for June 6th so hard dollar numbers should be known by the end of June.
- The temporary school modulars were arriving, and work would continue throughout the summer on utilities (water, wastewater, plumbing, electricity, etc.) pending coordination with Eversource. The current move-in date was expected to be sometime in October 2022.
- Sarah York was on the Invoice Review Working Group and expressed serious concern with the cumbersome Town payment procedures, requiring review by

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her group, signature by the Tisbury School Committee (TSC) chair, and hard copy/wet signatures by Town Accountant Suzanne Kennedy. Invoice payment was already lagging, which could seriously jeopardize the project as contractor and sub-contractor work accelerated. Consultations with Ms. Kennedy for proactive troubleshooting were somewhat frustrating. In addition Town Hall was awaiting hard numbers before starting to plan a Special Town Meeting (STM) in time for the November elections and had not yet considered such things as where it might occur if the School gym was in demolition phase.

- The TSBC was strongly advised to spearhead a fundraising committee. The Tisbury Business Association had worked out a fundraising program which was forestalled by the Pandemic. The FinCom considered:

- regulations around donations to public schools;
- Friends of the Library as a model of a companion non-profit support;
- ongoing Community Preservation funding for landscape/playgrounds;
- matching funding needed for grants, etc.

The FinCom offered their support in all the above aspects (see below: Actions).

- Martha's Vineyard Regional High School Committee (MVRHSC) was considering an appeal on the Oak Bluffs Board of Health (BOH) ruling against artificial turf. Mary Ellen Larsen reported the MVRHSC had become a difficult Committee in terms of friction as well as workload which included 2 major controversies (building project and artificial turf) as well as active Budget, Transportation, Land Use Subcommittees. She was impressed with the School services, programs and support for students but was dubious about the rising budget to pay for them.

- Community Preservation Committee (CPC) had completed its work and would meet again in the fall for the September application deadline.

- Water Resources: A June 23rd public/Zoom meeting would present the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) - Phase I Needs Assessment based on various future scenarios such as 0%, 10%, etc. growth, nitrogen loading, and other issues (see below: Actions). Phase II would present options and Phase III, the actual plan. The Wastewater Department found the slow process worrying because of the aging treatment plant.

- Climate Committee Chair Melinda Loberg and Nancy Gilfoy were planning a joint meeting on the financial aspects of climate change actions.

Committee Assignments

The FinCom thanked representatives for their service and continuing commitment:

- *RACHEL ORR MOVED TO APPOINT THE FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES:*

- *EMBARKATION COMMITTEE – JYNELL KRISTAL,*

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- *SEWER ADVISORY BOARD – DAN SEIDMAN,*
- *WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE – NANCY GILFOY;*
- SARAH YORK SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- The following liaisons volunteered.
- Members agreed to share the Planning Board and the MVRHSC which were both large, important, time-consuming commitments (see below: Actions).
- Mary Ellen Larsen was appointed to the Master Plan Steering Committee along with other volunteers representing a broad range of town residents.
- Affordable Housing – Dan Seidman,
- Climate Committee – Louise Clough, Rachel Orr,
- CPC – Mary Ellen Larsen,
- MVRHSC Transportation Subcommittee – Allan Rogers,
- Planning Board – John Oliver, Rachel Orr,
- TSBC – Sarah York,
- TSC – Jynell Kristal,

Future Meetings (See below: Meetings/Events.)

- Summer meetings might include:
 - a joint meeting with the Climate Committee;
 - municipal finances orientation by Tisbury Financial Director Jon Snyder,
 - fall STM preparations.
- Hybrid in-person/Zoom meetings would encourage public participation but would also require Town investment in the technology.

Items Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair - None

Adjournment

- *ALLAN ROGERS AND SARAH YORK MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:51PM; LOUISE CLOUGH SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYE, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

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

Appendix B: Actions

- Sarah – talk to TSBC/Jim Rogers re: fundraising Committee/campaign.
- Nancy/Sarah – contact Town Administrator/Finance Director re: auditor advice on electronic signatures/invoice streamlining.
- Nancy/Sarah – consider calendar of MVRHSC & Planning Bd. meetings.
- Nancy – coordinate Special Town Meeting for November State election.

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Appendix B: Actions (cont.)

Next Agenda

CFL Reserve Fund Request?

Minutes: 3/23/22, 4/6/22, 5/11/22, 6/1/22

Financial Impacts of Climate Committee Actions

\$100,000 FY22 Reserve Fund spending tally – Balance: \$63,000

8/25/21 – Selectmen Other/Finance - \$25,000 Insurance shortfall

5/11/22 – Building Dept. - \$12,000 - Wiring Inspector fee reserve shortfall

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/1/22

Nancy Gilfoy – Chair

Date

Minutes approved 10/19/22