



Town of Tisbury
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Town Administrator's Report

SELECT BOARD MEETING June 28, 2023

Appointment

The appointment of a Human Resources Director is the final step in the establishment of the Human Resources Department. With the concurrence of the Personnel Board, I am recommending to the Select Board the promotion and appointment of Pamela Bennett to the position of Human Resources Director.

Aquaculture License Application for Hussels Head Oysters

The proposal has not received favorable recommendations from the Shellfish Constable or Harbormaster. The Select Board has previously granted two easement areas in Lagoon Pond for Aquaculture. The areas granted total approximately two acres. Please keep in mind that the Tisbury portion of Lagoon Pond which is heavily built up with residences and other pre-existing activities such as established moorings, shellfish hatchery, marinas, shellfish seeding areas, navigation, recreational swimming, and recreational boating. This limits the opportunity for additional uses.

After reading the materials submitted and received, I am not confident that these issues and concerns raised by all parties of interest can be resolved within the current proceedings. Therefore, I would recommend the application be withdrawn without prejudice by the applicant or denied without prejudice. I also recommend that the Select Board direct staff to work diligently with the applicant towards a solution for the present location to extent feasible or preferably a solution that identifies an alternative site that does not have the concerns and conflicts this current location presents.

Tisbury Local Drop-off

The Public Works Director Kirk Metell is recommending increases to the vehicle stickers to mitigate increased cost for operation of the local drop off area. The elimination of specific items for material drop off is in response to increased costs and limitation on labor available for the current operation. This also brings Tisbury in alignment with other towns. The materials can be directly dropped off at the approved collection facilities on island and then transferred off island.

This avoids two on island transit of materials, first to Tisbury and then to the central collection facility for transport off island.

Moped License 19 Beach Road

The license has not received all the required signoffs from departments. Notwithstanding the prior establishment and conditions for the former moped rental establishment, the site location is limited in size and congested. A high volume of traffic from both onsite use and adjacent uses. Egressing this area. The space for the test track, training and storage is severely constrained and does not appear optimal.

I do not see how the proposal fully responds to the Tisbury Moped Regulations. Specifically, the following judgments and conditions that the Select Board must make, which are as follows: (1) no new license shall be issued unless the Select Board is satisfied after an investigation of all facts that the applicant has a place of business suitable for such a purpose, and (2) the Select Board may adopt and prescribe such rules and regulations as it deems to be in the best interest of public need, safety and good order in licensing any business which rents leases or keeps for rent or lease any motorcycles, motor scooters or mopeds (motorized bicycles). I am not sure what condition(s) is possible to address the concerns and traffic conflicts.

I believe that based on the materials submitted and at the conclusion of public testimony the Select Board will likely be challenged to resolve all the outstanding issues and concerns. I think it is imperative to advise the Applicant in a timely manner before they sign a formal lease, acquire mopeds, or incur any additional expenses to act on the application.

You do have the option to schedule a site visit if you move in the direction to approve or approve with conditions. Public safety officials would recommend the site visit if that was the case.

Class II License, 300 State Road

According to our Town Attorney, there is not a provision in the statute for a temporary license. There is a concern that if issues arose after approval and the Town asserted that the license had expired would be problematic to claim it was not for a full year.

The Select Board could approve the license, but not issue it until the site is cleaned up, the number of vehicles is reduced to 31 total and fire lanes maintained. The approval would be contingent upon those conditions. The condition could state that the conditions must be met by a date specific.

Another option could be a temporary license, subject to same conditions. That could be a way to emphasize the limited opportunity the Town is giving for license approval, which is justified. This would emphasize the limited opportunity the Town is giving for license approval.

The Town Attorney will attend the meeting to answer any questions.

Let's Ring Freedom Bells, July 4th Bell Ringing

The Town Hall bell is functioning and will participate in the bell ringing this year.

Moorings, Rental, Application for Permit Approval

The Harbormaster is making an application to Army Corp of Engineering for Permit Approval for the transient moorings proposed in Lake Tashmoo previously discussed with the Select Board. The Harbormaster can also process the permit application for the other existing moorings which is drafted in town waterways. However, that has been a concern for some as to permitting moorings in town waterways from the Army Corp of Engineers for the Harbormaster to rent them out legally. The recommendation is to move forward with the immediate need for guest/day moorings in Lake Tashmoo and refer the proposal for permitting the remaining moorings to the Waterways Committee for further review and recommendation in the fall.

Veterans Park Utility Installation

Open Space and Recreation have no objection to the installation. The Conservation Commission noted no concerns or jurisdiction with the proposed construction activity. The Town Attorney is being consulted with as to policy and licensing considerations, as may be applicable.

Veterans Park Turf Management

The proposal for services was reviewed and approved/supported by the Public Works Director and Open Space and Recreation Committee. Today, the first step in the scope of work included a site visit to begin the evaluation of existing condition of the fields which is a necessary step.

Lake Street Park Pickleball Courts Management

Correspondence from Open Space and Recreation Committee who will be represented by the Chair tomorrow evening. The primary objective is to address access and security concerns after hours.

Adoption of Entertainment License Fee

This is the first step, which is to establish a fee for an activity allowed under state law. Tisbury does not have a fee. In the future entertainment guidelines/guidelines can be developed after the Select Board gets a sense of the demand for licenses and requests made. We have received an inquiry and expect further interest and want to be proactive and request your approval of the entertainment application fee.

Special Legislation – Martha's Vineyard Housing Transfer Fee

The recommendation is for the Select Board to vote and send a letter of support for the special legislation.

Licenses and Permits

No need to approve special events at Martha's Vineyard Museum, informational, since covered by the Memorandum of Agreement.

My understanding is all signoffs have been secured for the license renewals or reissuance before you this evening.

Five Corners (Beach Street Outfall Pipe and 20 Beach Street “old fire station lot”)

The meeting with Massachusetts Department of Transportation District V Director Mary-Jo Perry was very productive. Representatives from the Boston MASSDOT Office were also present. The direction of the Beach Street Outfall Pipe following the public hearing held in Tisbury is to examine drainage comprehensively to investigate the options identified.

As a follow-up to the hearing on the drainage proposed at the old Fire Station Lot, soil investigation was completed. The results will be sent in correspondence to the Town for review and consideration. Remediation of subsoil conditions is likely.

The evaluation of safety improvements for the five corners intersection has been added to the scope of the project study with an emphasis on pedestrian safety at this location. The MassDOT Office of Transportation Planning is managing this this effort, and they are going through a selection process for a consultant to assist with this the planning, engineering, and evaluation.

A working group is being established and tentatively scheduled to meet July 27th. A contact list is being compiled for parties of interest which includes, but not limited to, the Tisbury Select Board, Tisbury Fire Department, Tisbury Police Department, MA State Police local, and The Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, as well as the Tisbury Planning Board, Finance and Advisory Committee, and Climate Committee.

FEMA Bric-Grant (Seawall Beach Road)

Two meetings were held with representatives of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Association for the grant kick off. Tigh and Bond are the approved consulting engineers for the planning and engineering for this effort. The effort will be over a two-year timeframe. I am proposing that the Climate Committee will be the lead committee to assist with this effort. I will also involve the Open Space and Recreation Committee in the process and encourage them to participate closely with this planning effort due to their interest and work on public access and park on the town owned land adjacent to Lagoon Pond across from the seawall. This is directly related to coastal resiliency. Therefore, the town will continue to work closely with Coastal Zone Management on this project.