

Selectmen's Meeting
January 3, 2012
3:30 pm

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in the Fred B Morgan Jr. Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members present were: Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman; Michael Donaroma, and Margaret E. Serpa. Also present was Ms. Pamela Dolby.

At 3:30 p.m. Mr. Smadbeck opened the meeting and recognized Mr. Chris Scott, co-chair of the Library Building Committee and Director of the MV Preservation Trust.

Mr. Scott stated that the Library Building Committee (LBC) has been working on the language for the articles concerning the Warren House for town meeting and they have also been looking for alternative uses for the Carnegie Building. There had been a lot of discussion. The LBC had consulted with the Council on Aging to see if they would be interested, but after a public hearing it was obvious that the seniors in town did not want to leave the Anchors. The LBC had thought of using the Carnegie as a branch of the Library, but the Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) voted against it. The LBC then tried to come up with a useful purpose for the building.

The idea then came up to ask the MV Preservation Trust (MVPT) if they would be interested in using it as a museum. The MV Museum would be moving to Vineyard Haven, leaving Edgartown without a museum to represent its whaling heritage. The MVPT would like to use it as a museum and a central place for tours they host and information for tourists. It would help organize and represent the town to the tourist and visitors.

The LBOT unanimously support the idea. The MVPT is favorable to it as well. April town meeting would be critical.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that it was great and would be a win win proposal if it worked. He was very pleased.

Ms. Serpa agreed and stated that it would be April soon and they needed to start moving.

Mr. Scott stated that it would be cultural and educational.

Ms. Serpa stated that the Community Preservation funds to restore the Carnegie were still available.

Ms. Dolby replied that the LBOT had already started discussions on utilizing the funds.

Mr. Scott stated that they would work together.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that it was generous of the MVPT to come up with a solution and applauded the MVPT and the LBC.

Mr. Scott applauded Mr. Donaroma, his co-chair of the LBC.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the LBC and the LBOT would be prepared to give a presentation at town meeting in April.

Mr. Smadbeck thanked Mr. Scott for coming in.

The Board then approved the following items:

To accept a Volunteer Fire Assistance grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the Fire Department for \$920

A travel voucher for the Ambulance.

To accept a gift of \$22,000 for the Dredge Department from the Cow Bay Corporation.

To renew a fisherman's depot lot lease for Jack Blake.

To sign an affordable housing covenant for Amy and Doug Heil.

An Auto Rental license for MV Auto Rentals.

A Used Car Dealer License for AAA Auto Sales and Bertel Autobrokers.

A One day liquor license for the Firemen's Association.

To accept two gifts of \$100 each for the Beautification Committee.

Mr. Smadbeck then read a letter from the School Superintendent asking for the surplus kitchen equipment from the Old School for the West Tisbury School.

Ms. Serpa asked if it needed to be declared surplus.

Ms. Dolby replied that the whole school had been declared surplus in a town meeting article.

Mr. Donaroma moved to let the West Tisbury School have the equipment except for the stove which was requested for the New Edgartown School by Gina deBettencourt. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous.

The Board then approved the minutes of 12/27/2011.

Mr. Donaroma then moved to withdraw the application for DCPC that the Board had submitted in October 2011 upon the request of the Martha's Vineyard Commission and request the Planning Board to resubmit the application. Ms. Serpa seconded. Unanimous.

At 3:45pm Mr. Smadbeck recognized Ms. Georgiana Greenough, Assistant to the Planning Board.

Ms. Greenough stated that she and the wireless committee from Chappaquiddick had been working on solutions to provide and improve service to Chappy and use town land to do so. They had decided they would like to put out an RFP for a DAS system that would not include a large tower, but a series of antennae. The system would need a hub. The committee thought perhaps it could be placed in the silo at Katama Farm. They had made an unvetted list of town properties on and off Chappaquiddick that could possibly be used for the hub which would require about 800 square feet of space. The committee thinks that the companies should come up with their own estimates of how much they should pay for leasing the town space with an annual increase of about 3%.

Mr. Smadbeck stated that they would need to put out the RFP out before knowing if the silo was a usable option.

Ms. Dolby stated that they needed a town meeting warrant article like the one for Katama.

Ms. Greenough responded that it was written and that it could be changed on the floor of town meeting if needed.

Mr. Smadbeck asked Ms. Jane Varkonda about the silos.

Ms. Varkonda replied that the RFP was out and due soon and that they would know fairly soon if they would be able to use the silos for Chappaquiddick too. It would depend on how much room was left.

Ms. Greenough stated that the committee would like permission to go to town counsel to review the RFP. Ms. Serpa moved to approve the request. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

At 4:00pm Mr. Smadbeck opened the public advertised hearing for the application of the Main Street Diner to switch to a seasonal beer and wine restaurant license. Present was Mr. Glen Ward, owner and manager.

Mr. Ward stated that they had tried for several years to be year round but, that they were loosing money and couldn't do it anymore. They were also having problems finding help in the depth of winter.

Mr. Donaroma replied that they had given it a gallant try.

Ms. Serpa asked what their season would be.

Mr. Ward replied that it would be April to December and stop serving alcohol in November.

Ms. Serpa moved to approve the request for a seasonal beer and wine license. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

At 4:15pm Mr. Smadbeck opened the advertised and posted public shade tree removal hearing for Eugene Courtney at 8 South Water St. Present were Mr. Courtney and Mr. Stuart Fuller, Tree Warden.

Mr. Courtney stated that he would like to remove the honey locust tree because it was diseased and leaning. He was afraid it would fall on someone. He had provided a letter from Hagerty Tree Service stating the condition of the tree and would like to replace it with a proper replacement, but would like a year to do so to find the right tree and position.

Ms. Christina Miller, resident, stated that she felt the middle of winter was a bad time to have a hearing because, only the bones of a tree were visible. She felt that the town was losing trees left and right.

Mr. Courtney replied that he would be replacing the tree with one deemed suitable by the Tree Warden.

Mr. Fuller stated that he supported the removal and replacement. He was bound by law that he only had so long to respond to applications. Even ones received in the middle of winter.

Mr. Donaroma stated that the current tree was a locust and that those trees had a lot against them. He suggested that it be replaced with a nice shade tree over 4" caliper to give it a good start. The Board has this system to preserve shade trees in town. He asked Mr. Courtney to replace it with a nice size bigger tree.

Ms. Serpa stated that it was leaning and this was why they had this process. They have required all trees that have come to them to be replaced.

Ms. Serpa moved to allow removal of the tree and replacement of a shade tree of over 4" caliper with the approval of the Tree Warden. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

At 4:30pm the Board was joined by the Financial Advisory Committee for budget hearings.

- Accountant: There was discussion of the Accountants contract and the cost reflected in the budget. There will be contract negotiations with the Board.
- Christmas Decorations Committee: Everyone complimented about how nice town looked for the holidays.
- Financial Advisory Committee: It was noted that now the reserve fund is part of the operational budget.
- The Treasurer: It was noted that the borrowing costs, interest on temporary loans, and tax title monies are all in the operational budget. They discussed debt budget percentage and agreed on about 5%. Due to good rating the town borrows at about 2%.
- Historic District Commission: It was noted that the assistant is now separate from the Building Department.

Ms. Dolby asked the FINCOM to conserve the Reserve Fund this year as she anticipates needing it for legal fees.

There being no further business, Ms. Serpa moved to adjourn at 5:00 pm. Mr. Donaroma seconded. Unanimous.

Approved:

Arthur Smadbeck, Chairman

Michael J. Donaroma

Margaret E. Serpa
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant