

Selectmen's Meeting

June 22, 2009

4:00 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 Michael J. Donaroma, Chairman; Margaret E. Serpa, & Arthur Smadbeck. Town Administrator Pamela M Dolby was present.

At 4:00 pm Mr. Donaroma opened the floor to the Sengekontacket Joint Committee for an update. Duncan Ross, Chairman, Paul Bagnall, Jerry McCarthy, Liz Dirky, and Jan Reilly were present for the update. Also present was Jane Varkonda, Conservation agent.

Mr. Ross started by reporting that the Committee has applied for part of a grant from NOAA that totals over \$1 million. They have turned down a section that included revitalizing the eelgrass population, but are still in the running for dredging funds. The Committee is also looking into applying for Stimulus money from the federal government. He then turned the floor over to Paul Bagnall for an update on the pond's condition.

Mr. Bagnall stated that they had a good summer last year. They did some supplemental sampling and the major issues continue to be birds, mostly cormorants, and Major's Cove seepage. In order to reopen the pond there needs to be 10 clean tests between now and October 1st. The whole pond probably will not reopen next year, but the beach side sections may.

Mr. Smadbeck asked if there was DNA testing on the samples to see break down of the largest contributors to the problem.

Mr. Bagnall stated that 68% were waterfowl.

Mr. Smadbeck questioned if it was due to the cormorants on Sarson's Island and what can be done about that.

Mr. Bagnall answered that yes most of the issue had to do with the birds on Sarson's Island. There are no permits given in MA to harass or get rid of cormorants. They are an unfortunate nuisance. The island was originally rehabbed over for terns and cranes, but has been taken over by the cormorants.

Mr. Smadbeck questioned what can be done.

Mr. Bagnall answered that the only answer at this time is to flush water in and out of the pond more effectively.

Mr. Smadbeck asked if anyone has spoken with the Federal Government over the bird issue and if anything can be done.

Mr. Bagnall stated that it's very difficult to get permission to mess with the bird population. They have given permission to farmers in the MidAtlantic states to protect crops. The bird experts need to come up with a plan.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the committee has made a 45 minute video in conjunction with MVTV to educate the public. It will air on a regular basis on the public access channel. The cormorants population is an ever increasing issue and they have pushed other birds off the island.

Mr. Smadbeck asked if the island could be made smaller by dredging around it.

Mr. Bagnall answered that marshland would be effected and referred to Ms. Varkonda.

Ms. Varkonda's answer was no. The marsh could not be touched. Runoff from septic systems is also an issue and a lot of eelgrass has been lost.

Mr. Donaroma stated that dredging seemed to be the current answer.

Mr. Ross stated that Oak Bluffs hoped to be able to start dredging in the fall. The town voted to borrow \$500,000 at their Annual Town Meeting for the project but, if they receive the grant from NOAA there won't have to be any borrowing.

At 4:10 Mr. Donaroma opened the discussion with MV Sightseeing. Present were Police Chief Paul Condlin and from MV Sightseeing, Gus Schroeder and Scott Dario.

Chief Condlin started by explaining the situation at hand. Tour buses are not supposed to go down Main St. beyond Church Street. In this case, the Sightseeing buses have been seen on several occasions past this point. This has become a regular occurrence and the Chief has received numerous complaints from neighbors. He wanted to square this away before the summer season really got busy.

Mr. Schroeder answered that he was aware that on June 8th bus #24 went down North Water St. without permission. On June 12 their buses were on charter and not on a tour when they were spotted downtown. Sometimes new drivers get all "loosey goosey", they have all now been set straight.

Mr. Dario explained that there were distinct differences in the services they provide. They have ticketed tours that the routes are approved by the towns and they have a charter service that can go wherever the client wants.

Mr. Donaroma stated that there was only one set of rules.

Mr. Dario answered that those were only for the ticketed tours.

Chief Condlin stated that it's the same licensing through the state.

Mr. Dario answered that he could provide legal information to Town Counsel if necessary.

Chief Condlin stated that this is not a new problem and has been going on for a long time.

Mr. Smadbeck suggested that Chief Condlin have a discussion with Town Counsel.

Chief Condlin suggested that he talk to the State first. He would like the tour company to provide the Police Department with contract information before the date of transport.

Mr. Dario asked if the Chief wanted to be flooded with paperwork.

Chief Condlin replied that he needed back up for when people complained.

At 4:20 Mr. Donaroma opened the discussion on the application of Colin Floyd to move a house from MVLB property on Jeffers Lane to Tom's Neck Farm. Present for the discussion was Colin Floyd, applicant, and Ann Floyd, owner Tom's Neck Farm.

Mr. Floyd showed the selectmen a map of his intended route and his destination.

Ms. Serpa moved to approve depending on approval from the Planning Board and the Building Inspector. Mr. Smadbeck seconds. Unanimous.

AJ Black was present to invite the Board to the opening of his restaurant Il Tesoro at the Charlotte Inn on Tuesday, June 23rd.

The Board approved the following items:

For the Board of Trade to hang their 4th of July fireworks banner.

To send a letter to Comcast encouraging installation on Chappaquidick.

A transfer of funds from one account to another for the Zoning Board.

A Common Victualler's License for William Crafev d/b/a The Pizza Place at 249 Edg/VH Rd.

A one day liquor license for the FARM Institute for their Meals in the Meadow on July 18th.

Commercial Marine Licenses to the following: Charles Ashmun d/b/a Great Harbor Sport Fishing, Mark DeFeo d/b/a Mark DeFeo Marine Services, Robert D. Morrison, Daniel A. Gilkes, Martha's Vineyard Museum, & Scout Harborview Management LLC d/b/a Harborview Hotel & Resort.

To sign the minutes of May 26, 2009 and June 1, 2009 and dispose with reading aloud.

To sign the Common Victualler's licenses for IL Tesoro and Nectar's.

To sign the Entertainment and Sunday Entertainment Licenses for Nectar's.

Mr. Donaroma then addressed a letter from the Dukes County Fishermens' Association about the Dredge and Sengekontacket. The decision was made to invite the Dredge Committee and the DC Fishermen to next week's meeting and discuss the letter.

Ms. Dolby then informed the Board that she, Mr. Charlie Blair, and Chief Conclin had all been working together on the parking situation at the Town Wharf. To make the spots more accessible to the public which are unused in the afternoon they would like to change the fishermens' parking spots from 2am-6pm to 2am-2pm.


Ms. Serpa moved to approve the change. Mr. Smadbeck seconded. Unanimous.

Ms. Dolby continued on the parking theme, stating that the back lot of the Town Hall is 2 hour parking and the Town employees have been notified that notes on windshields will not be accepted. Parking in the brick area for Town employees was on a first come first serve basis. She then referred to Ann Tyra about the Library lot.

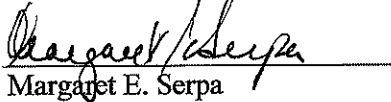
Ms. Tyra stated that the Library Lot was 1 hour parking and the employees park in a designated area off to the side. The police do come by on a regular basis.

Ms. Serpa moves to adjourn at 4:49pm. Mr. Smadbeck seconds. Unanimous.

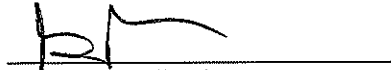
Approved:



Michael J. Donaroma, Chairman



Margaret E. Serpa



Arthur Smadbeck
Board of Selectmen

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Rose
Assistant

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