

Selectmen's Meeting

March 31, 2008

4:00 P.M.

A meeting of the Board was held on the above date in a temporary meeting room on the second floor. Members present were Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman, Selectman Arthur Smadbeck and Selectman Michael J. Donaroma. Also present was Town Administrator Pamela M. Dolby.

The Board received an update on renovation plans for the Harbor View Hotel from Alan Worden, President, and Thad Hyland, General Manager. Also present was their attorney, Sean Murphy. Mr. Worden introduced Mr. Hyland to the Board and said a national search had been made before Mr. Hyland, fortuitously visiting Edgartown and the Harbor View, where he had worked as General Manager 17 years ago, was chosen.

Mr. Worden praised Edgartown for its small town qualities and distinctive beauty. He said their goal is to have a positive impact on the Town, to have the Harbor View and Kelley House be the center of town, a place for parties, charity events, weddings, christenings. He said they are co-investing, planning to install decorative street lights such as are on Main Street and other streets up to the Harbor View and a new walkway with granite curb. Environmentally, they are improving the energy profile of the Harbor View and cottages, a few of the latter already reconstructed.

Mr. Worden said they had interviewed 500 guests, who asked for a program for children, and a fitness center. He said that they have a huge amount of permitting in front of them, that they will meet with the Martha's Vineyard Commission and Edgartown Planning Board. He said that Fred B. Morgan, Jr. has been a good friend of the hotel.

He spoke of the costs of renovation, some \$32 million. He said guests will spend \$8 million each year in the area. He said they are using local contractors where they can and have the support of their neighbors. They are also improving the park across the street, the dining room and kitchen. He said they would be renovating the rooms on the second and third floors next winter, but the restaurant and bar will be open during the winter.

Selectman Smadbeck said it is amazing what they have done and that the health of the Harbor View and Kelley House is good for the Town. Chairman Serpa said she is glad they are keeping the restaurant open at least three days a week and Selectman Donaroma agreed.

Mr. Hyland said he was manager of the Harbor View in 1991-1992. Seventeen years later, he was on vacation here, where he has a house, and chatted with Mr. Worden on the Harbor View porch. He had wanted to come back to live in Edgartown all those years and now he is going to. He said there is a lot of work to do on what he described as "the Grande Dame of Edgartown" and emphasized that one of the goals is to keep the hotels open and working in winter. He described the work he has been doing in California and noted he has a wife and two children, aged 2 and 4. He added that they would like to hear about any complaints of poor service.

Town Administrator Dolby said it is nice for the community to know they will be open during the winter. Chairman Serpa thanked them for coming in.

Police Chief Paul Condlin and Lt. Antone Bettencourt, as well as Peter Shemeth of the Fire Department and Peter Wells, owner of the Chappy Ferry were present regarding the incident on March 25, 2008 where a car went off the ferry as it was docking. Chairman Serpa said the Board wished to express their thanks and said that the swift actions of all concerned had averted what could have been a very different story. Stephanie Immelt, Edgartown Police Officer, and Mr. Wells described how they figured out how to get the car out of the way, with help from Fire Chief Shemeth. Brad Fligor, Chappy Ferry Captain, pointed out the fact that one of the passengers had the presence of mind to put down a window before the car went under the water. Brad was able to pull everyone to safety on the ferry. Selectman Donaroma thanked all of them for a good job. Mr. Wells thanked the Fire and Police personnel and added that knowing the people in the car were safe took a load off his mind. Chairman Serpa thanked all concerned and said their actions were a true indication that when everyone works together, it works out well.

The Board then voted the following:

To approve the minutes of March 24, 2008 as written and dispense with the reading of same.

To grant Common Victualler's Licenses to Espresso Love, Restaurant at Dunes Road d/b/a Lure, SoJo Corporation d/b/a Chesca's and the Golf Club of Martha's Vineyard.

To approve and sign Seasonal Liquor License renewals for the following: Chappaquiddick Beach Club, Among the Flowers, Boathouse Bar, LLC d/b/a Navigator Restaurant & Boathouse Bar; Seafood Shanty Restaurant Management, Inc. d/b/a The Seafood Shanty; Moshup Limited Liability Co. d/b/a Atria, The Restaurant at Dunes Road, LLC d/b/a Lure, The Golf Club of Martha's Vineyard, Inc. d/b/a Vineyard Golf Club, China House Restaurant, Inc. d/b/a China House, Espresso Love, Inc. d/b/a Espresso Love Café, Sojo Corporation d/b/a Chesca's, and McWinery, Inc. d/b/a Town Provision Co.

The Board received a letter from l'etoile accepting the seasonal operating dates and asking if after November 30, 2008 they could serve some food some nights and also conduct some cooking classes. All alcoholic beverages will be removed from the premises. The Board voted to permit this.

Chairman Serpa said that after the Executive Session last week, Town Counsel had proposed a motion which he intends to file against the application of Cape Wind to erect wind turbines in the waters off the Island. Selectman Smadbeck read the motion: "Move that the Selectmen authorize Town Counsel to file a motion to intervene in the proceedings before the Energy Facility Siting Board ("the Board") to oppose the application of Cape Wind on the grounds, among others, that the Town is concerned about the effect on fisheries, its commercial fishermen, and commercial navigation, in the event the proposed facility were to be constructed, and that Edgartown supports the local review powers of the Towns of Yarmouth and Barnstable and the Cape Cod Commission, and does not wish to have those powers undermined by a decision of the Board." This motion was seconded and the Board so voted, each member saying Aye.

The Chairman then referred to the Green Shuttle, whose advocates had appeared before them last week requesting permission to operate in Edgartown. The matter was continued to this week while Police Chief Condlin investigated whether or not a license from the Town is required.

The Chief said that in his opinion the Town did not want to get into licensing for this operation. People who wish to use it telephone the Bourne office of Green Shuttle requesting a pick-up. Selectman Smadbeck observed that Bourne is responsible. Town Administrator Dolby added that the owner is licensed out of Bourne. Chief Condlin suggested that a letter be sent to the owner that he doesn't need anything further from Edgartown. Chief Condlin said if the applicant ever wants to store a vehicle in Edgartown he would have to see the Chief. Town Administrator Dolby said he needs no further licensing from us. Chairman Serpa thanked Chief Condlin for researching the matter.




There being no further business, the meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

Respectfully submitted,



Hope Waingrow, secretary


Margaret E. Serpa, Chairman
Arthur Smadbeck
Michael J. Donaroma

BOARD OF SELECTMEN