

**Present:** J.B. Riggs Parker, Warren Doty, Frank Fenner, Tim Carroll, Tim Broderick, Alec Gale, Lev Wlodyka, Everett Poole, Donald Poole, Karsten Larsen, Wayne Iacona, Matt Mayhew, Jonathan Mayhew, Gregory Mayhew, Betsy Larsen, Dan Broderick, Steve Broderick, John Armstrong, Brian Cioffi, Jane Slater, Andy Goldman.

Mr. Parker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room.

#### Public Hearing on Proposition 2 ½ Override

Mr. Parker opened the hearing at 7:30 p.m. regarding an override on Proposition 2 ½ at the Special Election on January 19, 2010. Mr. Parker explained that the override would exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ the amounts required to pay for the bond to be issued by the Town in order to construct three affordable housing rental duplex buildings for the Middle Line Road affordable housing project, including the payment of all other costs incidental and related thereto. Mr. Doty gave a brief update on the Middle Line Road rental duplex project and funding needed, which was approved at Special Town Meeting on December 7, 2009. Jonathan Mayhew asked what the total cost to the Town would be and Mr. Doty said the Town needs to borrow \$1.4 million over a fifteen year loan period. With no further comment Mr. Parker closed the hearing.

#### Menemsha Harbor Space Request from Tim Broderick & Alec Gale

Mr. Doty described the request and proposal the Selectmen received from Alec Gale and Tim Broderick to lease space on the Dutcher Dock bulkhead. The proposal included a list of local fish purchased by Mr. Gale in 2009, in addition to the space requirements needed to process and package the mussels. Mr. Doty attested that the space needed to run this business is too large an operation to be conducted on Mr. Gale's boat the Jane Lee, which is docked at Dutcher Dock. Mr. Gale explained that currently he and Mr. Broderick have two mussel farms funded by a federal grant, which could yield thirty to forty thousand pounds of mussels when they are due to be harvested in July. Mr. Parker asked what the procedure for processing the mussels is and Mr. Gale explained the mussels need to be de-clumped, cleaned and processed by hand and then put into refrigerators, and eventually transported via a refrigerator truck. Mr. Gale said that, in addition to purchasing and transporting fish to New Bedford from the local fishing fleet, he also transports thirty thousands pounds of ice a week in the summer from New Bedford to serve the local fishermen; thus illustrating the strong need for an ice facility in Menemsha.

Mr. Gale believes his project would have a great benefit to Menemsha Harbor and could employ up to sixteen local fishermen. Mr. Broderick explained that the Town has received permission to form twenty-five acres of sea bottom area which could allow up to forty long-lines, producing 20,000 pounds per line if successful. Mr. Doty proclaimed that he has worked with Mr. Broderick and Mr. Gale long and hard on pursuing this project, stating that the project has been sponsored by the NOAA resulting in a grant to the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole to benefit the project. Mr. Doty declared that off shore aquaculture has a strong opportunity to greatly benefit the local fishing industry if it can be successful. Mr. Parker asked Mr. Gale what the potential profits were and Mr. Gale said that their mussels would sell for \$1.30 to \$1.85 per pound. Mr. Gale concluded with stating that 95% of blue mussels eaten in the U.S. come from Canada.

Jonathan Mayhew said he had no problem with the proposed location of the mussel farms, but would be concerned if the farms expanded into other areas of the coastal waters. Mr. Doty said that any mussel farms in Town waters would have to come before the Selectmen for approval for an aquaculture grant and then subsequently approved by the State. Mr. Doty went onto explain that the towns of Aquinnah, Chilmark and West Tisbury all approved experimental aquaculture zones, each

totaling twenty-five acres per Town, in very specific locations and the State has approved two of the zones. Mr. Parker asked how many total pounds could yield from the harvest annually and Mr. Broderick said that, based on their research, in ideal conditions the yield would be 700,000 pounds.

Mr. Parker asked Mr. Goldman, Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, how he would like to proceed. Mr. Goldman asked to hear from Louis S. Larsen Jr., lease holder of Bulkhead Lot Five, about what his future plans were for using his lot. Louis Larsen said that he would be willing to relinquish his building and lease on the lot if Mr. Broderick could pay a fair market price for it the building, or tear it down, but he does not want to see another building built on a vacant lot in Menemsha. Mr. Fenner said that a two week period should be established to negotiate a price for the building. Mr. Gale said their intentions are not to change the structure or character of Menemsha Harbor. Mr. Doty indicated that mussels are a high volume, lower price item, which is different from the business historically done in Menemsha and might require a possible loading dock or other changes depending on demand. Mr. Parker said that the docks need to remain clean and open to the public, and that fishermen should try to work during normal business hours.

The members of the Parks and Recreation Committee and the Selectmen thanked Mr. Larsen for his willingness to assist with this project moving forward. Mr. Goldman entertained a motion to approve the proposal and to move forward with issuing a lease for Bulkhead Lot Five to Tim Broderick. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved. SO VOTED: Four Ayes.

#### Housing Rehab Loan Program

Mr. Doty announced there would be an information session on Thursday, January 14, 2010 regarding the Housing Rehab Program that qualifies residents with low incomes to apply for a no interest, fifteen-year loan of up to \$30,000 to make critical repairs to their home; such as a new furnace, replacing windows, etc. Mr. Doty explained that one fifteenth of the loan is forgiven each year and entirely forgivable after fifteen years if the home is not sold and includes up to \$5,000 for childcare assistance.

#### Personnel Bylaw on Performance Evaluations & Step Increases

As a matter of reminder, Mr. Parker affirmed that the Personnel Bylaw states that an employee cannot receive a step increase unless an annual positive performance evaluation has been completed. Mr. Fenner moved and Mr. Doty seconded to not award a step increase to an employee unless a positive annual performance evaluation has been completed. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

#### Dukes County Fishermen's Association

Mr. Doty reminded all present that the Dues County Fishermen's Association meets once a month on Wednesdays at the Dukes County Administration Building at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Doty indicated that at the meeting to be held this week the Striped Bass Bill would be discussed in preparation for the hearing at the State House on January 14, 2010. The Striped Bass Bill proposes to ban commercial striped bass fishing in Massachusetts and would have a tremendous impact on the commercial fishing industry in Menemsha. Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fenner seconded that the Chilmark Board of Selectmen resolve that striped bass is an important part of commercial fishing in Menemsha and are opposed to the Striped Bass Bill. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fenner seconded a motion to adjourn. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Meeting adjourned.

Approved January 19, 2010.