

Town Committee on Squibnocket

Minutes

July 1, 2014

Chilmark Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room

8am

Present: Jim Malkin (Chair), Allison Burger, Steve Flanders, Dan Greenbaum, Billy Meegan, Jane Slater, Janet Weidner, Ron Rappaport (*ex officio*)

Also Present: Warren Doty, Chris Murphy, Tony Orphanos, Wendy Jeffers, Ginnie & Dave Dawson, Barbara Lee, David Damroth, Jay Walsh, Kent Damon, Celeste Damon, Currie Smith, Wendy Weldon, Michelle Lasser, Margaret Maida, Thomas Bena, Martin Hale, Ken Iscol, Gus Wheeler, Rosalie Hornblower, *others unspecified*

Minutes of June 24, 2014 were approved.

Website: Jim Malkin stated that all documentation of the Committee's work will be posted on the town website, and encouraged people to check frequently for updated postings or to subscribe for automatic email notification of postings to the "Squibnocket Project" page.

Presentation of Existing Data: Chuck Hodgkinson was asked to give the Committee a brief overview of relevant data already available to the Town. He presented an index of 32 items, including legal documents relating to the use of the land in the area, coastal surveys and maps of coastal erosion, and recent reports and presentations from consultants. The data will be posted on the Squibnocket Project web page. Jim Malkin emphasized that the purpose of today's presentation is only to review available data, not to engage the related recommendations or to consider arguments in favor of such recommendations. Chuck Hodgkinson also briefly reviewed the terms of the \$280,000 State grant available to the Town for Squibnocket, a preliminary rough cost estimate of possible work to be undertaken, and deadlines for submitting Warrant Articles to upcoming Town Meetings. Jim Malkin reminded the Committee that there is no time limit set on its work. The Committee hopes to be able to report on its progress to the Fall Special Town Meeting and to have a proposal for the Annual Town Meeting in the spring of 2015. Members asked that Chuck's powerpoint presentation be made available on the web page.

SquiCom Funding: The State grant will need to be used by May 2016, and comes in the form of reimbursement of expenses undertaken by the Town, which would need to be appropriated. The Committee noted that it may be necessary to hire an independent consultant at a later stage in its work, and asked Janet Weidner to continue to work with the Town to address this need. Selectman Warren Doty noted that the Selectmen are planning to discuss funding for the Committee's work and that "unclassified" funding in the Selectmen's budget could accommodate modest requests at this time.

Data and Regulation: The Committee designated Steve Flanders and Dan Greenbaum as “Data Masters” to oversee the availability and accessibility of data relating to this project on the Town’s web page. Billy Meegan and Allison Burger will take the lead on reviewing regulations relating to the project.

Board Process: Jim Malkin noted that Committee members are being approached by interested residents and members of the public outside of Committee meetings with comments, opinions, and offers of assistance and guidance in this process. He asked all involved not to engage individuals in participation outside of the Committee framework: he himself made a point of urging all interested parties who approach him to attend the Committee’s meetings and participate actively in the process.

Upcoming Presentations: Jim Malkin reported that he has sent out a letter soliciting participation in the process from numerous groups and individuals as discussed at the June 24 meeting of the Committee. He noted that the Committee is looking for written presentations to be made available to the Committee in advance of its meetings, so that the Committee can review the information and make the best use of its time to ask further questions relating to the specific proposals. So far, the Squibnocket Farm Homeowners Association has asked to present its proposal on July 29th. The representative of the Friends of Squibnocket asked to present at the upcoming meeting of the Committee on July 8th.

The meeting was adjourned at 09:05.