

***Wellfleet Selectboard  
Tuesday May 31, 2022; 7PM  
Meeting Minutes***

**Members Present:** Ryan Curley; Chair; Michael DeVasto, Vice Chair; Barbara Carboni, Helen Miranda Wilson, John Wolf

**Others Present:** Rich Waldo, Town Administrator; Charlie Sumner, Interim Town Administrator; Rebekah Eldridge, Executive Assistant; Michael Hurley, Police Chief; Carole Ridley, Herring River Restoration; Lisa Souve, Interim Town Accountant; Mary McIsaac, Interim Town Treasurer; Tim Sayer, Resident; Judith Ahern, Resident; Kathleen Bacon, Resident; Fred Magee, Chair of the Finance Committee.

Chair Curley Called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

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**I. *Announcements, Open Session and Public Comments***

**Note:** Public comments must be brief. The Board will not deliberate or vote on any matter raised solely during Announcements & Public Comments.

Chief Hurley spoke to the public and the board announcing to reassure the community of the conversations he has had with many school officials and wants the public to know that the police department is well trained to deal with a shooting or any dangerous event that may happen in the schools they are trained to deal with them, He wants to make sure the community feels safe.

There were no other issues to discuss.

**II. *Consent Agenda***

**A.** Wellfleet PTA change of date due to weather ~ Change from Saturday May 28, 2022, to June 25, 2022

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wilson seconded, and it was voted to approve the PTA change of date.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

**B.** Karen Johnson ~ application for the Shellfishing Advisory Committee

**Wilson asked to have item B removed to discuss outside the agenda.**

Wilson stated that there are two applicants for one position, and she feels the fair way to do it is to have both candidates present to decide on who the position should go to. Wolf disagreed stating that Johnson had her application in sooner.

**Chair Curley moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded, and it was voted to approve the appointment of Karen Johnson to the Shellfish Advisory Board, for a term ending June 30, 2025; and after being sworn in by the town clerk, to serve in compliance with Town Charter and all applicable state and local laws, regulations and policies.**

**Roll Call Vote: 3-1-0 (DeVasto abstained; Wilson voted no)**

**III. *Use of Town Property***

**A.** Rebecca Arnoldi ~ Various Wellfleet Beaches ~ Please see attached applications and detailed information

Chair Curley asked Arnoldi to speak to her use of town property. She explained what she wanted to do which consisted of hikes and yoga classes on assorted

beaches. She explained that she would like to make this complimentary to other programs that are run in the town of Wellfleet. She sent the board a schedule of what she would like to do and when she would like to do it. She explained to the board what her fee schedule was. Chair Curley spoke to the large fees that would be applied and suggested that Arnoldi speak with Suzanne to negotiate a fee.

**Board Member Wilson Moved; Chair Curley Seconded; and it was voted to approve Rebecca Arnoldi's use of town property as specified in her application and conditioned by Town Departments for a fee to be negotiated with the Community Services Director.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

**IV. *Herring River Restoration Project***

- A.** Ducks Unlimited Town's Match ~ *Board Member Carboni recused herself from this discussion as she is waiting on the ethics committee to see if there is any conflict of interest.*

Ridley spoke to the board discussing the match that Duck's Unlimited has offered. The grant has officially been offered to Duck's Unlimited

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member DeVasto Seconded; and it was voted that the Town of Wellfleet will meet its contribution as the 10% match partner for the 2-million-dollar grant from Ducks Unlimited from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service North American Wetland Conservation Act program for the Herring River Restoration Project pledging 200 thousand dollars of expended grant funds from the commonwealth from municipal vulnerability preparedness action grant program and to authorize the signing of a partner contribution and the provisions of necessary documentation of expended grant funds.**

**Roll Call Vote: 4-0-1 (Carboni was recused)**

**V. *Adult Community Center Retirement Letter***

- A.** Discussion and delegation of Selectboard member to be present a letter to Linda Balch retiring from the Adult Community Center.

They discussed the letter and decided that Board Member Wilson would represent the board at the goodbye lunch for Ms. Balch.

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member DeVasto Seconded; and it was voted to approve the letter written on behalf of the board be signed by all members of the board.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

**VI. *Public Discussion***

- A.** Financial Discussion ~ Slide show including the following ~

- Findings of the internal audit with the finance team
- Moving Forward
- Questions and Comments

Souve, McIsaac, & Sumner presented a slideshow to the board and public explaining their work over the past two years. Each slide showed what they have done and how they are working towards clearing the "town's Slate". There were

comments about “stolen money” both McIsaac and Souve stated there was no evidence of criminal activity or fraud in the town. They explained money that was “missing” was actually just inputted wrong in the ledgers and put into wrong accounts and incorrectly.

The three explained how they have gone through every book and transaction of financial input from the years 2020 and 2021. It was explained that they had to go through each entry to make sure they were done properly, and it was explained that there were thousands of entries that were put in the system incorrectly. Souve and McIsaac had to go through all the entries and reconcile them to match the bank statements. They addressed the management letter from the auditing company and explained the letter and stated that there were a lot of mistakes from previous employees, and that they were there to address those mistakes. McIsaac stated that they have addressed all the issues that were stated in the management letter and have been fixed. They all reiterated to the board and public there was no criminal activity and no money stolen.

They continued stating that they are about to close the books for 2020 and 2021 and will then work with the Massachusetts department of revenue and Powers and Sullivan auditors to make sure before they leave the town all the finances are in the place they need to be and the new accountant and treasurer are able to keep the departments running as they should be.

They moved on to some of the main issues within the accounting and treasury department's stating that the huge turnover rate was a problem.

Souve discussed the accounts that she has created, and the town will continue to use, she explained that old account numbers were being used and only the accounting department knew the numbers from the new accounting system Vadar. They finished their presentation explaining what their goals are before they leave and how they will continue to educate the new staff and be available to help them through the new transition. They continued discussing the budgets and if the override for the 2023 operating budget didn't go through there would be services that would be cut from what the residents of Wellfleet have come to expect regarding services.

Sumner, McIsaac, and Souve answered questions from the board and the public in person and through the zoom platform. It was explained that the town hasn't asked for an override in many years, and it is a normal occurrence for any town to have a 2 ½ proposition override. They explained how overrides work and how they will be implemented in the years to come to help regain the town's fiscal responsibility. They continued the discussion about certifying free cash which they stated wouldn't be done by the June 11<sup>th</sup> town meeting but would be finished by the special fall town meeting in September. The board continued to discuss the override and the continuing issues if the budget isn't passed.

Magee spoke to the board and public giving information on how the finance committee supports the efforts that McIsaac, Sumner and Souve have done.

Chair Curley asked Waldo to speak to this and Waldo reiterated how great the team has worked and he believes that this work is the fundamental on running the town and he looks forward to opening the door to a new beginning for the Town of Wellfleet.

**VII. 2022 Annual Town Meeting**

**A. Discussion and Review of events for town meeting.**

Sumner spoke to town meeting and went over some articles that needed to be addressed. Explaining that free cash hasn't been certified and certain articles will need to be indefinitely postponed moved to the special fall town meeting. He went over the articles that will need to be postponed due to free cash not being certified. Silverman spoke to the board asking for the Selectboard to adopt the practice where the chair of the board and the vice chair make all the motions and seconds.

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wilson Seconded; and it was voted that the selectboard authorizes the Town Moderator to have a drawing for five beach stickers for the voters at the end of town meeting.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

**VIII. New Business**

Wolf told the board he will have the policy for use of town buildings at the next meeting. He also stated to the board that the former member Reinhart was a liaison for the Dredging Task Force and stated he would like to be appointed to that board as their liaison.

Carboni spoke to having liaisons for all boards and asked if the board would be willing to consider it.

The board discussed having an executive session on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

DeVasto stated there are two community forums coming up one about town meeting and the other to help voters understand the override at town meeting. There will also be a candidate's night after town meeting. The date is to be determined.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wilson Seconded; and it was voted to adjourn the meeting.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

**Meeting Adjourned 10:44pm**

**\*\*\* Public Documents \*\*\***

*Change of date for PTA carnival*

*Application from Karen Johnson to be on Shellfish Advisory Board*

*Application for use of town property ~ Rebecca Arnoldi*

*Duck's Unlimited paperwork for town's match*

*Letter from the selectboard to retiring Community Center employee Linda Balch*

*Power point presentation from Charlie Sumner, Lisa Souve, and Mary McIsaac regarding financial status of Wellfleet*