

TPC re: ZA

After nearly a year on the TPC, working with Jen, I have reached the following conclusions:

1. The descriptions and duties of both TPC and ZA are easy to understand and not in question. However, in both cases, personal experience and judgement must come into play.
2. Over the past year, unnecessary written communications by the ZA have undermined the commissions' work, leaving us open to unnecessary questions and criticism.
3. The ZA is to be clearly an instrument of the TPC, leaving decisions to the TPC, as well as responsibility.

I have come to a point in evaluating what is not working, where in Jen I see myself as a 35-year old. Although I had already at 35 been working in the real world for 20 years, I then found myself in a corporate setting with very little experience about how things were done there. I found myself making decisions that were not mine to make, failing to understand how to interact with my peers and superiors in such surroundings, and making a number of mistakes I later regretted. It can take years to learn how to play the game and I will propose that 10-15 years on Madeline Island (as a twenty-something) does not give one a "real world" view about the world.

Those of us currently serving on the TPC are all experienced in the workings of the outside world and naturally have expectations about how we will function on the commission and with other officers of the community. Jen's note to Barb of 2/14/08 was entirely inappropriate, in as much as the responsibility for notices, letters, etc. was entirely Barb's and Barb's failure to perform would have no reflection on Jen. Further, the ZA notes dated 2/11/08 are in effect, an attempt to make policy and give direction to the commission, instead of a brief head's- up to the commissioners. While the information is helpful, it should come to us in a different form, such as an agenda item so we could have a discussion.

I have come to have great respect for the competence Jen displays in all areas of her job, and I have personal fondness for her. I would like nothing more than for all of us to have a smooth working relationship in a situation that is so important to the island. If Jen and the TPC continue to feel as though our relationship is adversarial, this situation will not be resolved.

Beth Fischlowitz, TPC

  
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