

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2022
4:00 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd, Tristan Israel, Peter Whaton, Don Leopold, Keith Chatinover*, Leon Brathwaite*

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager, Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds

Others Present: County Commissioners elects: Doug Ruskin, Jim Klingensmith, Julianne Vanderhoop; Edgartown Parks Commissioners: Andrew Kelly, Jane Varkonda, Glenn Searle, James Hagerty – Edgartown Town Administrator, Kara Shemeth – Edg Conservation Commission, Jessica McGroarty – Edg Parks Dept., Edgartown Highway dept., Darci Schofield – The Trustees, Abigail Rosen – MV Times, Aidan Pollard – MV Gazette, Alexis Colantonio, Anthony Cimen, Antone Lima, Bo Reily, Chris Kennedy, Christopher Scott, Cynthia Dittbrenner, Dan Karparis, David Beardsley, Ed B. Self, Eli P., E. McDonough, Francis A. Ford., Karen Osler, Kristen Grubbs, Leslie Self, Ned Bean, Peter Sliwkowski, Peter Shemeth, Rachel Self, Rick Murray, Russ Hopping, Victor Colantonio, Thomas Ross, Jean Hunter, Aaron Gouveia, Ron Domurat, Lisa, Todd's iPhone, William's iPad, Becky's Ipad, KO

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM

Minutes –

Tristan/Don moved approve minutes of 11-2-2022. So voted. Don – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Tristan/Don moved approve minutes of 11-9-2022. So voted. Don – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Minutes of 11-16-2022 – postponed until next meeting.

The airport request for an approval of a lease that was added to the agenda at the last minute was postponed until next meeting due to a legal question that needs to be answered first.

*Leon and Keith joined the meeting.

Edgartown Presentation to propose management of Norton Point Beach

Andrew Kelly, Park Commissioner introduced his fellow commissioners: Glan Searle and Jane Varkonda (also Edgartown's Conservation Commission agent) and James Hagerty – Edgartown Town Administrator, Jessica McGroarty – Department head for Edgartown Parks and Recreation. He made a presentation (on file) on behalf of the Edgartown Parks Commission. Edgartown manages South beach for the State that is adjacent to Norton Point beach and has the staff and experience to manage Norton Point as well. Discussion followed. James Hegarty said an enterprise fund would be created that would track the sales and all the money that is raised from the beach, and it would be reinvested into the

beach. Edgartown would keep the prices the same for the upcoming year for sure. Discussion followed. Trustees will make a presentation

Renaming Dukes County Social Services and the Vineyard Health Care Access Program to Dukes County Public Benefits Access and Dukes County Health Care Access

Martina explained reasons why the proposal of the name change – to help Finance Committees better distinguish between the programs and services provided by the County. Don made a presentation of what the county does and how this fits in. (presentation on file). Leon suggested legally changing the contracts with the towns to reflect the new names.

Tristan/ moved to make the proposed name changes effective as of July 1, 2023. So voted. Leon – yes, Don – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, Keith – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Treasurer Search – Update – no new candidates

County Treasurer Legislative change to allow commissioners to appoint treasurer not residing in Dukes County was filed and was moved last Thursday to Rules Committee.

Leon suggested to start advertising off island even before legislation is approved. Also suggested to reaching out to Noreen Mavro Flanders, the retired treasurer to see if she might be available. Peter was supporting engaging a headhunter. Tristan suggested reaching out to Mass Municipal Association to advertise in their magazine. Discussion followed about how to reach out to retired people on MV who might be interested in less than full-time. Keith will try to put this into local social media. Also ask what publications do the municipal accountant and treasurers utilize and advertise there. It was agreed to take the ad out of local paper and advertise at Cape Cod Times instead couple times.

American Rescue Plan Act – Update

Airport request for the county to do the reporting for their project is being discussed. There will be a meeting between Airport, County and auditors to finalize the decision on this.

Septic project – Don reported that the information is being finalized on this before it will be shared with auditors and legal counsel for review. The sooner we can use the ARPA funds to put these systems into the ground and demonstrate that it is working and reducing the nitrogen the better will the island be positioned for any additional state funds towards the coming up mandatory upgrading of the septic systems due to new DEP regulations.

Building Committee – Update

Martina gave a report on the last meeting where schematic plans for improvements within the current footprint were discussed. The building needs so many improvements that it would be a costly proposition while if we do not expand, we will still be short on office space to properly house the program that is projected to be expand. Leon said that he would support moving with the project in the current footprint and keep the warrant article placeholder until the amount is clarified.

Finance Committee – Update

Engagement letter for auditors – recommendation is to engage with the current auditors for two years to see the ARPA funding go through the completion.

Warrant article as placeholder for renovation of VHCAP building. CAB agreed with the placeholder with the understanding that the amount will be supplied no later than January 15th, they were not comfortable with the \$600K request.

Doug said that short term responsible repairs for safe environment for the program should be done while county is looking at long-term space need for all county departments, which will be a longer-term exercise.

Tristan/Leon moved to amend the original vote and submit a placeholder warrant article without specific amount to fund urgently needed upgrades of the Health Care Access building. Discussion followed. So voted. Leon – yes, Don – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, Keith – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Manager's Report

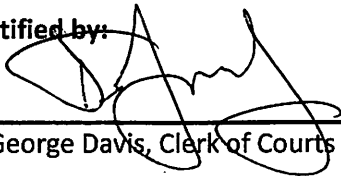
Norton Point beach - Update on Phase 2 of the Norton Point restoration project from the Trustees: The project (additional approx. 5,600 cubic yards of dune nourishment) is moving forward for implementation for this winter (mid-January but no later than mid-March). The Trustees is contracting with Woods Hole Group to assist with modifications to the design and survey based on site changes since the project was permitted and coordinating with Natural Heritage for the protection of the birds. They are engaging with the Buzzards Bay Coalition (and their contractors) regarding the sand source, on-site construction oversight.

Tristan asked if the airport could supply the projected number of flights that the Vineyard Wind hanger will generate. Peter responded that they presented to the MV Commissioner and said there will be about four flights per day.

Public Comment - none

Leon/Don moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:07pm. So voted. Don – yes, Tristan – yes, Peter – yes, Keith – yes, Leon – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

Documents presented at the meeting and part of the official record:

- Meeting Agenda
- Edgartown Presentation
- County services Presentation