

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 3, 2021
4:00 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair; John Cahill – Vice Chair; Keith Chatinover; Donald Leopold; Leon Brathwaite; R. Peter Wharton; and Tristan Israel.

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

Others Present: Ben Robinson; Juliette Fay; Laura Silber; Aaron Wilson – Vineyard Gazette

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Minutes

John Cahill made a motion to approve the minutes for February 2nd and 3rd, 2021. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Keith Chatinover aye, John Cahill aye, Tristan Israel aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, Donald Leopold aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.

Climate Change Resolution

Commissioner Israel proposed a County Climate Change Resolution template that aligns with the initiative for the Island to be energy self-sufficient in the coming decades and supports the efforts of various Town Meeting articles. Commissioner Wharton asked to include aquiculture. **Tristan Israel made a motion to adopt the language as written with aquiculture inserted after agriculture. Keith Chatinover seconded the motion. So voted. Keith Chatinover aye, John Cahill aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Tristan Israel aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, Donald Leopold aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.** Commissioner Todd appointed Commissioner Israel to be Chair of Climate Committee. Commissioner Wharton and Brathwaite were also appointed to the Committee.

Housing Bank Coalition

Juliette Fay and Laura Silber presented a proposal for a coalition to create a Martha's Vineyard Housing Bank that is modeled after the Land Bank. The initiative began November 2020 and is expected to take 2 years to complete. The goal is to create a steady and reliable source of funds to finance affordable housing projects through the establishment of a transfer fee (up to 2%) on properties up for sale. These fees are expected to generate \$6-10 million per year. Seasonal and year-round Islanders have already donated \$200,000. This funding mechanism's anticipated budget is \$200,000-\$250,000 with 2 employees. The approach includes local efforts amongst the Towns and statewide legislation (SD565, H1911, and HD3764). There will be two upcoming public listening sessions for feedback and input. Commissioner Todd announced that she will be the County Commission liaison.

CVEC Appointment

There were two candidates for Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC appointment) – Tain Leonard Peck and Louise Clough. **Tristan Israel made a motion to reappoint Mr. Peck to CVEC. Donald Leopold seconded the motion.** Commissioner Israel withdrew his motion. **Commissioner Todd called for a rolleall vote. So voted. Keith Chatinover voted for Tain Leonard Peck; John Cahill voted for Tain Leonard Peck; Leon Brathwaite voted for Tain Leonard Peck; Tristan Israel voted for Tain Leonard Peck, R. Peter voted for Louise Clough, Donald voted for Tain Leonard Peck, and Christine Todd voted for Tain Leonard Peck. Motion carries.**

Personnel Bylaw

The Dukes County Personnel Board voted to recommend Juneteenth be added to the list of holidays in the Dukes County Personnel Bylaws. Massachusetts passed legislation recognizing Juneteenth Independence Day as an annual state holiday commemorating the emancipation of Black enslaved people in the United States. **Tristan Israel made a motion to adopt Juneteenth as a day off for County employees as recommended by the Personnel Board. Leon Brathwaite seconded the motion. So voted. Keith Chatinover aye, John Cahill aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Tristan Israel aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.**

Appointment for Dukes County Legal Counsel

Discussion ensued about Michael Goldsmith's appointment to Dukes County Legal Counsel. He has recommended other Counsel and is willing to stay on until a decision is made. Suggestions such as bidding periodically on the position, advertising for new Counsel, and keeping current Counsel, were brought forth. Commissioner Todd recommended a Subcommittee of Commissioner Brathwaite and Commissioner Israel form to discuss options and revisit the topic at the next regularly scheduled DCC meeting.

Allocation of Overhead

Since the new formula for Allocation of Overhead was not yet approved the topic will be revisited at the special DCC meeting on Friday, March 12th, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

FY2022 Budget Revisions

This topic will be revisited at the special DCC meeting on Friday, March 12th, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

Manager's Report

Ms. Thornton reported that interviews for Assistant County Manager were conducted, but a larger pool of people is requested. She recommended advertising more and sending a letter from the County about the position. Commissioner Chatinover will draft a brief personal outreach letter encouraging people to get involved in County Government. Sam Heart was contacted regarding the contract extension of Norton Point, which expires at the end of March. A draft of their new contract with the change that permits will not be sold at the County Administration Building, as they are being sold online will be created. A brief discussion about Federal COVID-19 relief funding that could be distributed from the State ensued. Several State Beach projects are underway. A permit request for sand nourishment was approved by the Oak Bluffs Conservation Committee. Split rail and snow fencing repairs are underway. The dune restoration project is reported to be successful. The two kiosks by the bridges are be redesigned with educational

information about the beaches and environment. Beach Committee to look into several issues brought forth – lack of public restrooms on State Beach, State Beach parking lot repair, and Eastville Beach parking lot repair.

Planning Committee Update

Commissioner Leopold reported that reviewed the process that has already been completed and discussed next steps. The upcoming external individual interviews with external stakeholders, County staff/appointees, and social service/not-for-profit leaders. The questions asked will outline their two-year vision, top three priorities, and County assets to leverage. The interview guide included addressing the nature and frequency of interactions with the County; County strengths and weaknesses; and needs the County could help address. Committee is requesting the email invitation be sent from DCC Chair that instructs follow up scheduling to be done with Vice Chair. Confidentiality and transparency were decided to be upheld; therefore no names will be recorded, only the entities they represent. It was agreed upon that the findings would be shared with the community.

Old Business

Steamship Authority and Manuel F. Correllus State Forest updates were requested to be given at the next regularly scheduled DCC meeting.

New Business

There was no new business.

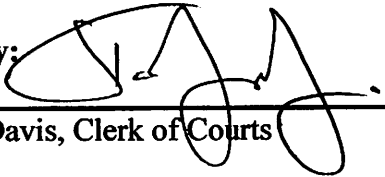
Public Comment

There were no public or press comments.

Leon Brathwaite made a motion adjourn the meeting. John Cahill seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, Keith Chatinover aye, John Cahill aye, Tristan Israel aye, R. Peter Wharton aye, Donald Leopold aye, and Christine Todd aye. Motion carries.

The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 6:06 PM. The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Thursday, March 3, 2021 at 4:00 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Minutes - February 2, 2021
- Meeting Minutes - February 3, 2021
- Climate Change Resolution Template
- Memo regarding Dukes County Legal Counsel
- Manager's Report