

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 11, 2022
5:00 PM**

REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Joint meeting with the Nantucket County Commissioners to take public input and comments on proposed legislation impacting the Steamship Authority (H4527)

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Christine Todd – Chair, John Cahill – Vice Chair and Port Council member for Tisbury, R. Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel, Leon Brathwaite
Martina Thornton – Dukes County Manager

Nantucket County Commissioners (also serving as Nantucket Selectboard) Present: Melissa Murphy – Chair, Jason Bridges (Nantucket Board of Selectmen Chair), Matt Fee
Libby Gibson – Administrator

Selectmen: Edgartown- Art Smadbeck; West Tisbury - Cynthia Mitchell, Skipper Manter
Town Administrators: James Hegarty – Edgartown, Deb Potter – Oak Bluffs

Other public officials:

Rob Ranney – Nantucket appointee to SSA Board
Jim Malkin – Dukes County appointee to SSA Board
Joseph E. Sollitto, Jr. – Port Council member – Oak Bluffs
Chariti Grace Mofset – liaison to state representatives from Nantucket
Kaylea Moore – liaison to state representatives from Martha's Vineyard
Joan Malkin – Martha's Vineyard Commission chair
Richard Knabel – MV Airport Commission
Kristie Ferrantella – Nantucket....
Erika Mooney,
Tim Madden – former state representative

Others Present: George Brennan, Aidan Pollard - The Gazette;
John Woodwell, M Bergman, Mary Longacre (Nantucket), John Basile, JBR Parker, Robert Jones, Holly J. Wilson, F Scott Wilson, Joy Robinson-Lynch, Nicola Blake, Bob Johnson, Brian Bushard, Gregg Tivnan, Susanna Sturgis, Sarah Carlon, Jason Graziadei, Brian Turbitt, John Woodwell, Bill (1-774-392-2498), Bob, Rich

Christine Todd called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and opened the joint meeting with the Nantucket County Commissioners and the public hearing to gain input and comments on the proposed legislation impacting the Steamship Authority (Bill H4527).

First, she asked for remembrance of Joe Balco, a former Dukes County representative to the Steamship Authority (SSA) board who passed away yesterday.

Christine Todd introduced Martha's Vineyard representatives present and Melissa Murphy introduced Nantucket representatives present (see above).

Rob Ranney, Nantucket representative to the Steamship Board read his statement into the record. Jim Malkin, Dukes County representative to the Steamship Board made his statement raising concerns about the process and no public discussion about the proposed legislation took place. Joe Sollito, the Oak Bluffs Port Council representative agreed with the statement made. John Cahill, the Tisbury Port Council representative also agreed. He pointed out that there is big turnout here and about 30,000 are represented between the two islands and the lack of process is a concern to him as well.

Nantucket County Commissioners (also serving as Board of Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket) Jason Bridges, agreed with all that was sent so far. More concerned about the process than the content of the legislation. Melissa Murphy agreed. The Nantucket letter was clear that they do not support the legislation and the process.

Dukes County Commissioners:

Tristan Israel agreed with statement so far and does not understand why at this point the legislation would not be pulled.

Leon Brathwaite said that he supports the legislation and our representative. The process could have been better. He said that when there is a vacancy we advertise it.

Jim said that he told the representative that he does not think it was a good idea to file the legislation and that better communication is needed between the steamships ...

Christine opened the floor to other officials: Mary Longacre (Nantucket) said she attended most of the meeting of SSA and that she was impressed with the responsiveness and positive impact that the board made with complex ... and that the legislation does not add to

Kaylea Moore – motivated by the quarter million audit in 2018 that the island called for and since then the representatives office did receives number of calls and even a petition to

There was opportunity for public hearing at the state level, notice for which is usually only available about week ahead. This will be passed in an informal session with no ability to file amendments. She said that there will be a need to reopen the legislation again in the near future. Dylan read the audit and sent down with people that wrote the report. One of the recommendations was the limitation of the term limits. Charity Grace....

Joy Robinson – Lynch: She said she is very concerned about the mismanagement of the Steamship Authority.... There were not that many cancelations in the past century.... She is not happy that nobody is being held responsible. She has been attending the SSA meetings and was not being taken seriously. She contacted both legislative representatives several times. When they had a passenger overboard drill and found out that crew was not capable of rescuing the person and she asked what they will do about it, SSA did not have much to say about it.

Bob Johnston thanked commissioners for having this meeting. He says that most on this call agree that the process matters, and he agrees that at this point the legislation be withdrawn and have the representatives respond to that request from the Dukes and Nantucket Commissioners. The islands are stronger together.

Susanna Sturgis says that living on MV for couple decades and when the appointee is being selected it is choice of the Commission board, that person was not elected by the people on the Vineyard directly. Joy Robinson – Lynch added that it is hard to contact Jim Malkin. Jim said he receives e-mails via steamship website and Chilmark website and responds to all.

Melissa Murphy read statement from the Nantucket representative Port Council....
The SSA belongs to us and we should work together on all issues that affect our lifeline...

Tristan said that we need to push the boats be electrified which will be a big push. Tristan suggested for the Dukes and Nantucket commissioners meet together once or twice per year.

Christine thanked everyone who participate in the public hearing and suggested to jointly present letter to both representatives and directly respond in writing to the concerns we have and any future legislative process.

Meeting was closed at 5:56pm by both boards.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- Meeting Agenda
- Updated draft of H4527