

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 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, Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer

Others Present: Lucas Thors – Vineyard Gazette, Noah Asimov – MV Times

The Dukes County Commission (DCC) meeting was called to order on April 21, 2021, at 4:00 PM by Chair Christine Todd.

1. Minutes 3-3-2021, 3-12-2021, & 3-17-2021

Richard Peter Wharton moved to approve the 3-3-2021, 3-12-2021, & 3-17-2021 minutes. Keith Chatinover seconded. So voted. Chatinover – yes, Wharton – yes, Israel – Yes, Todd – yes. Motion carries.

2. Martha's Vineyard Commission Update:

Adam Turner, the Executive Director of the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC), briefly informed the Commission regarding the public hearing of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School's field. Mr. Turner also touched on MVC's involvement with Tisbury Marina Terminal, MVC's collaboration with the Packer Foundation, and the Vineyard Wind project to modernize ports and provide green jobs. In addition, Mr. Turner spoke briefly about other minor projects such as homes turning into hotel inns and a rumored hospital project of relocating Windemere elderly housing to a location in Edgartown. Lastly, Mr. Turner informed the Commission about a grant-funded up-Island water quality project for all of the ponds.

Comments:

- A Commissioner asked for more details regarding the Island's "character." Mr. Turner explained that the Island is changing; Martha's Vineyard (MV) is at a tipping point from being a rural community to a suburban one. As a result, there are subtle changes the Commission needs to consider.
- Mr. Turner briefly informed the Commission regarding MVC's Climate Change Task Force that meets twice a week.
- Mr. Turner thanks the Commission for a successful Census.

3. Dukes County Health Council update:

Mary Jane Williams from the Dukes County Health Council briefly informed the Commission of the Dukes County Health Council's mission and advocacies such as their Island-wide network of professionals, the council regularly identifies health care issues, regularly facilitate community-

wide conversations, advocate for actions, advocate for Island-wide housing and homelessness issues, etc.

Comments:

- Beka Eldeiry asked Ms. Williams if she and the council would be open in the standing committees to the idea of more people having access to the youth subject in collaboration with the Youth Task Force.

4. Fire Awareness

Ms. Williams expressed her concerns regarding the lack of precautions to potential forest fires on MV. Dr. Stratford, a California-based environmentalist, visited MV and provided an in-depth fire and fire prevention presentation. Ms. Williams informed the Commission that MV has many of the necessary pieces to protect our environment proactively. Unfortunately, MV doesn't have a proper handle on the State Forest, parks, and the Land Bank trails. All in all, there is an enormous abundance of dead wood readily available to fuel a fire if the forests and lands are not consistently cleared of deadwood.

5. On-Island Project (Presentation on file)

Chip Coblyn and Victor Capoccia are welcomed and introduced to the Commission regarding their sub-committee called the On Island Project, a part of the Substance Abuse Disorder Coalition. For the past four years, the On Island Project has met monthly to find valuable solutions to reduce substance harm within the Island community. Specifically, Mr. Coblyn and Mr. Capoccia's role for the On Island Project is to be the communication arm of the Substance Abuse Disorder Coalition. The On Island Project's vision and mission are to ignite a movement, inspire change, and invest in the future. With a primary objective of destigmatizing addiction and preventing first-time substance use. The On Island Project is currently raising funds to join The Public Good Project (PGP). PGP's mission is to solve the biggest health challenges by making them local, personal, simple to understand, and everyone's responsibility.

6. Sister Islands Partnership update & letter (Document on file)

Mr. Israel updates the Commission regarding the recent environmental tragedy of a volcano eruption on St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Mr. Israel read aloud the letter for approval from the Dukes County Commission.

Tristan Israel moved to approve the Sister Islands Partnership Update & Letter signed by Chair Christine Todd. Don Leopold seconded. So voted. Chatinover – yes, Leopold – yes, Israel – Yes, Wharton – yes, Todd – yes. Motion carries.

7. Planning Committee update –

Mr. Leopold informs the Commission that he has conducted twenty-three interviews with three to four scheduled interviews remaining. Mr. Leopold provides feedback that there is a significant variety of inputs for the Commission to think about. So far, everyone has been very appreciative of the Commission reaching out and doing the work. Mr. Leopold hopes to finish all the interviews by next week and present them to the Commission by early May.

8. Old business - None.

9. New business - Anything the Chairman did not reasonably anticipate for discussion when filing the meeting notice to be posted.

Mr. Israel expressed his dismay regarding Senator Miriam, who filed legislation that impacts the Steamship Authority negatively for Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Israel proposes creating a letter in opposition.

Comments:

- Mr. Chatinover agrees with Mr. Israel and would like to put this topic on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Chatinover also supports the letter of opposition.

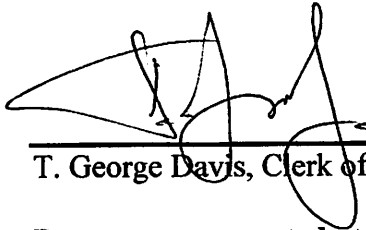
10. Public Comment - None.

11. Adjournment:

Mr. Israel motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Dukes County Commission meeting on April 21, 2021. Mr. Leopold seconded. So voted. Chatinover – yes, Leopold – yes, Israel – Yes, Wharton – yes, Todd – yes. Motion carries.

The Dukes County Commission meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM. The next Dukes County Commissioners Meeting is on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 4:00 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

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

- DCC Agenda 4-21-2021
- On-Island Project
- Sister Islands Partnership letter