

Dukes County Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2020
4:33 – 6:32 PM
REMOTE PARTICIPATION ONLY

Dukes County Commissioners Present: Tristan Israel – Chairman, Christine Todd – Vice Chair, John Cahill, Leon Brathwaite, Keith Chatinover, and Donald Leopold.

Other County Officials Present: Martina Thornton – County Manager, Ann Metcalf – Dukes County Treasurer, and Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds.

Others Present: Friends of Sengekontacket: Max McCreery, Chick Stapleton; Mary Jane Williams – Chair of Dukes County Health Council, Aaron Wilson – MV Gazette, and Jennelle Gadowski – taking minutes.

Tristan Israel called the meeting to order at 4:33 PM.

Minutes

Tristan Israel entertained a motion to approve the Dukes County Commissioner's minutes from July 1, 2020, July 15, 2020, and July 20, 2020. Leon moved the motion. Christin Todd seconded the motion. So voted. Leon Brathwaite aye, Christine Todd aye, Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, Keith Chatinover aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

County Commissioner Resignation

Commissioner Underwood resigned for personal reasons. A letter of appreciation and a plaque are underway for her years of service and will be headed by Christine Todd and Donald Leopold.

Events on State Beach

There have been several requests for events on State Beach, that have not been sanctioned due to COVID-19. Since Massachusetts is now in Phase 3 of the Reopening Plan with new regulations, there was a discussion on how to address safety needs for future events. Donald Leopold and John Cahill will be working with the County Manager to establish the safety regulations/policy for future events that will be discussed at the next meeting.

Friends of Sengekontacket submitted an application to host their 32nd Annual Oar & Paddle Regatta on Sunday, August 30, 2020 from 9:00-11:00 AM. The event organizer explained that this event is a family-friendly personal challenge with 5 staggered heats of 8 people (40 participants total) and no food or entertainment. Participants would be required to socially distance, wear masks on the shore, have a staggered arrival and departure time, and any equipment (life jackets, paddles, kayaks, etc.) will be disinfected between uses. Average racer takes 30-45 minutes to complete the journey from Little Bridge to Big Bridge and back. It was agreed that safety is the priority. There was concern that music and food would draw crowds that cannot safely socially distance. **Christine Todd made a motion to approve the race as presented with no music, no food and a limit on those who could attend. John Cahill seconded the motion. Christine Todd amended her motion to limit the spectators to 2 per participant with a cap of 16. Donald Leopold seconded the amendment. So voted Christine Todd aye, Donald Leopold aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Leon Brathwaite yes, John Cahill yes, and Tristan Israel no. Amendment carries.**

Leon Braithwaite made an amendment to the motion to start the race an hour earlier (8:00 – 10:00 AM). John Cahill seconded the amendment. So voted. Keith Chatinover no, Leon Brathwaite aye, Donald Leopold aye, John Cahill aye, Christine Todd no, and Tristan Israel aye. Amendment carries. Motion to approve the 8:00-10:00 AM event with 2 spectators per participant (cap of 16), no food, and no music. So voted. John Cahill aye, Donald Leopold aye, Leon Brathwaite aye, Christine Todd aye, Keith Chatinover no, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.

Cuttyhunk Island/Gosnold

Gosnold Town Government to be contacted and invited to future Dukes County Commissioners meetings.

Island-Wide Emergency Management Position – Dukes County Health Council

The Chair of the Dukes County Health Council shared concerns with there being no Island-wide emergency management coordinator to address the issues of the community and have a unified system of alerts. It was suggested to coordinate discussions of creating this position with the current six Emergency Management Directors, Martha's Vineyard Commission's Adaption Master Plan Committee, Dukes County Commissioners, Boards of Selectmen, and Boards of Health. It was also suggested that this position be with the County, full time, authoritative, and with power to conduct policy. It was agreed that Dukes County Commissioners should request to be put on Martha's Vineyard Commission's Adaption Master Plan Committee's meeting agenda to discuss things further.

Long-term Courthouse Plan

There were discussions regarding ideas to improve the Courthouse. The County gets reimbursed 87% from the state of Massachusetts for any Courthouse repairs. The State has no plans to build a new Courthouse. It was established that the Registry of Deeds and Dukes County Commissioners will continue to work together in being proactive and getting ahead of future issues and work within the limits of the building. It was agreed that since it is a state agency and state services, that they should pay. Per John Cahill, Martina Thornton will request for the long-term Courthouse plan to be put on the agenda of the next County Advisory Board meeting.

Manager's Report

- CVAC representative requested a support letter for a new initiative to be approved by the State. The letter is ready to be send out. **Keith Chatinover made a motion to approve and send the CVAC support letter. Christine Todd seconded the motion. So voted. Donald Leopold aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Christine Todd aye, John Cahill aye, Leon Braithwaite aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries.**
- Jim Malkin was not able to participate in the meeting and give the monthly Steamship Authority report. Questions were raised regarding response to COVID-19 safety on vessels and enforcement of safety guidelines. Jim Malkin will be invited to the next Dukes County Commissioners meeting.
- Norton Point Beach was over washed due to storm surge on August 4, 2020, and therefore temporarily closed.
- The County website was updated with the major storm preparation infographics and resources for the public.

Appointment Process

To be discussed at a later meeting.

Old Business – Allocation of Overhead Update

No new update at this time. To be discussed at a later meeting.

New Business

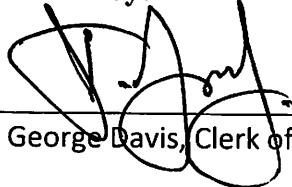
The legislature on the Treasurer's position going from elected to appointed is currently being pushed through the House and Senate. It has to be passed before September 1, 2020 in order to appear on the ballots. So, it is in the hands of the legislative representatives pushing it through both chambers. Martina to report more on this matter at the next meeting.

Adjournment

Christine Todd made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Cahill seconded the motion. So voted. John Cahill aye, Christine Todd aye, Keith Chatinover aye, Donald Leopold aye, Leon Braithwaite aye, and Tristan Israel aye. Motion carries. The Dukes County Commissioners meeting was adjourned at 6:32 PM.

The next regularly scheduled Dukes County Commissioners meeting is on Wednesday, August 19, 2020 at 4:30 PM.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

Documents Discussed

- Minutes 7-1-2020, 7-15-2020, 7-20-2020
- State Beach regatta event proposal
- CVAC support letter