

Dukes County Commission (DCC)

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, September 4, 2024 4:00 PM Remote participation only

Dukes County Commissioners present: Christine Todd, Doug Ruskin, Randy Milch, Don Leopold, Peter Wharton, Tristan Israel, Juli Vanderhoop

Staff: Martina Thornton, Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira

Others: Ethan Genter (newspaper), Kate Warner (MV Commission),

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:00PM

Minutes 8-7-2024 & 8-21-2024

Don /Tristan moved to approve minutes of DCC meeting on 8-7-2024 and 8-21-2024. So voted. Randy – yes to 8-7-2024 and abstained for 8-21-2024, Doug – abstained, Don- yes, Peter-yes, Juli – abstained on both sets of minutes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Cape Cod Municipal Health Group representative

Noreen Mavro Flanders is retiring from this position in October 16th. Martina suggested advertising for the open position. Doug suggested to reach out to the town HR administrators directly before advertising this position. Tristan suggested to reach out to towns' treasurers offices and town administrators directly.

Report from meeting with Department of Conservation and Recreation

Christine, Don, and Doug joined the meeting along with Senator Cyr with Commissioner Ariggo. Discussions were not only about the homeless situation, but about state forest maintenance and wildfire prevention in general and the lack of full-time superintendent to oversee it. DCR proposed a future meeting to discuss next steps with local stake holders. Randy suggested to set up a meeting on more regular bases as there are several other issues that the island would like to discuss with DCR. Tristan suggested to also involve MV Commission in crafting a management plan for the State Forrest. Don requested to have a single point of contact between the island stake holders and DCR so it is coordinated. Tristan also mentioned the pending legislation to allow someone to live in the house in the State Forrest.

Steamship Authority Concerns

Doug and Christine attempted to attend the last SSA meeting via zoom, and it was a very bad connection and disruptive. Christine started to speak during public comment session and was asked to submit it in writing as they were not able to hear her. She and Doug are planning to attend the next meeting of SSA on Nantucket in person. Christine requested a later start of the meeting so they can make it due to Hy-line schedule but they were not willing to accommodate that so they will be placed later on the agenda as to not get skipped over. The Commissioners heard from local businesses how they have been impacted by the numerous cancelations over the past several months. This is not just an inconvenience issue but rather an economic issue for local businesses. Tristan confirmed with the SSA manager that if you are going to SSA meeting taking the SSA as

passenger is free. Kate Warner suggested to have a list of topics to go to the meeting with as there are many important issues that the Vineyard is looking to be addressed. October 17th will be the next SSA meeting on Martha's Vineyard. A suggestion was made to have a meeting where DCC can discuss what issues they would like to point out and have SSA to pay attention to and answer.

ARPA update and next steps

Peter reported that it was not on the Finance Committee agenda and therefore it was not discussed and that it is on the agenda for next week.

Committee Updates:

Finance Committee- Peter- the balances were rolled over from FY2024 to FY2025. Juliet met with Norn and Martina on reviewing the allocation of overhead formula and to set what reports will the treasurer office produce for the Fin Com going forward. Z Studio's proposal was over \$10K and so we asked them to revise it so we do not have to solicit for additional proposals. The committee also looked at a draft of new financial reimbursements policies for the county.

Land Use Committee – Tristan- the committee worked on the approval process for the over 20 -year leases of the Airport, draft was shared with DCC and will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting. The RFP is being advertised and so is the solicitation for the lease at New York Ave property.

Communication Committee – Doug – the committee did not meet.

Manager's Report – Martina (document on file)

Martina asked the chairs of the county committees to communicate with her assistant directly about posting and agenda at least 48 hours prior to posting. Martina can be copied in case her assistant is out but it is the Assistant's responsibility to post what the chairs decide should be on the agenda. Martina does not attend all Committee meetings so if there is a need for her to attend and prepare some documents that should be communicated. Martina attended with Randy and Doug a meeting of the West Tisbury Selectmen and arrived at an acceptable revised version of the regional umbrella contract that she will disseminate to the rest of the towns for review and approval.

New business- none

Public Comment & Announcements- None

Next DCC Meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2024 at 4pm

Randy/Peter moved to adjourned at 5:11 pm. So voted Doug – yes, Peter- yes, Tristan- yes, Randy – yes, Don-yes, Juli – yes, Christine – yes. Motion carries.

Certified by:



T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts