

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 7, 2025
4:00 PM
Hybrid Meeting

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

County staff: Martina Thornton, Juliet Mulinare

Other: Norm Werthwein, Amy Cody, Daniel Greenman MV Times, Ethan Genter Gazette, Chick Stapleton, Nat Trumbull

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Minutes 4-16-25

Doug/Randy moved to approve minutes from April 16, 2025. Doug - yes, Randy- yes, Don- yes, Peter- yes, Tristan -yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

State Beach

Hebrew Center asked again for a permit to conduct services on the State beach on Fridays, as they did in the past years. More details are in the manager's report.

Doug/Tristan moved to approve the services on State Beach as requested and to waive the permit fee. Doug - yes, Randy- yes, Tristan -yes, Don- yes, Peter- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

The little bridge has not been dredged this winter, or rather was dredged, but because the dredging permit had expired by a couple of days, the sand needed to be put back into the water. Christine would like to send a letter to the conservation commission to get an emergency permit to dredge the channel before the summer season to increase the flow into the pond. Doug & Tristan would like to cc Oak Bluffs and Friends of Sengekontacket on the letter.

Doug/Tristan moved to send a letter to the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission to get an emergency permit to have the area dredged. Doug - yes, Randy- yes, Tristan -yes, Don- yes, Peter- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries

The parking lot by the little bridge got really busy since Noman's restaurant has been running a schedule from that lot. Discussion followed.

Tristan/Doug moved to send a letter to Nomans about not being able to use the parking lot. Discussion followed. Tristan removes his motion.

It was agreed that Christine will have a conversation with the Oak Bluffs select board first and then Noman's about the situation.

Committee Updates:

Finance Committee – Met yesterday and discussed the next steps in seeking an increase in assessment and contacting DOR for further information.

Doug/Tristan moved to approve up to \$7k for the walkway repair at the courthouse from the capital Improvement fund. Doug - yes, Randy- yes, Don- yes, Tristan -yes, Peter- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

Land Use Committee – Will meet next week

Legislative Committee - There was a meeting on Monday about the steamship issues as well as term limits. There is a proposed legislation to limit the term of the members of the governance board to three 3-year terms. These terms do not need to be consecutive terms.

Doug/Tristan moved to send a letter of support for the Senate Bill #2395 to set term limits for SSA Board members. Doug - yes, Randy- yes, Don- yes, Tristan -yes, Peter- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

Communication Committee – Doug – nothing at this time

Improvement Committee- Don – nothing at this time

Manager's Report – on file

Martina and Juli will be at the Aquinnah town meeting on Tuesday May 13th.

New Business – None

Amy Cody from Citizen Action Group thanked the commission for supporting the term limits.

Doug/Tristan moved to go into an executive session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) 2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and not to return to a public session.

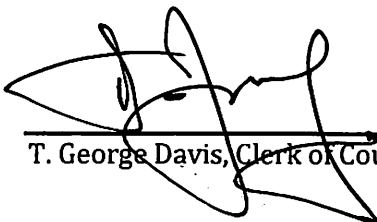
Doug -yes, Don- yes, Peter—yes, Randy- yes, Tristan- yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.

The public portion of the meeting ended and DCC went to executive session.

The executive session ended at 6: pm.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 21th 4pm.

Certified by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. George Davis', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with loops and a long horizontal stroke.

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts