

**Dukes County Commission (DCC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 21, 2026**  
**4:00 PM**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

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

County staff: Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira, Martina Thornton, Suzanne Jakel

Other: Norm Werthwein, William Craven, Jim Rubens, Lawrence Crocker, Stacy Malecki, Bob Rosenbaum- MV Airport, Don Ogilvie- MV Airport, Alex Kryska- Steamship Authority

Christine called the meeting to order at 4:06pm.

**Minutes from 1-7-2026**

**Tristan/Doug moved to approve the minutes from January 7, 2026, with Doug's edits. Doug- yes, Don – yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Tristan- yes, Christine -yes. Motion carries.**

**Airport Grant Assurances**

This is assurance for the Mass DOT portion of a grant to purchase a fire truck and ancillary equipment. Mass DOT portion is \$31,555.47.

**Tristan/Randy moved to accept the grant assurance. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don – yes, Tristan- yes, Christine -yes. Motion carries.**

**Doug/Randy moved to have the County Manager sign the grant assurance on behalf of the County. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don – yes, Tristan- yes, Christine -yes. Motion carries.**

Airport Commission candidates – Application on file

- William (Bill) Craven- He has had several years in leadership roles and has dealt with many different federal regulations on projects. He is chair of his Home Owners Association, Harbor Master of Edgartown Pond, and is on a search committee for a pastor at his church.
- James (Jim) Rubens- He is on the Airport Finance subcommittee and has attended most of the commission meetings. He understands the inner workings of the Airport Commission. He is a retired lawyer with experience in finance, real estate, and environmental matters.
- Lawrence (Larry) Crocker- Resident of the Island for many years. Would like to be more involved with the community and has an interest in serving the public. Serving as general counsel in several capacities has given him well rounded background. He also worked at Cape Air for a short period of time to gain knowledge of how the airport works firsthand.
- Stacy Malecki (on Zoom)- She wants to be more involved in the community. She has a background as an engineer for a jet engine company. She has operational experience with renovation projects with her condo association and a large building project at her church.
- Geoff Wheeler could not make the meeting but did submit written answers to the questions (on file).

\*Juli Vanderhoop joined the meeting at 4:27pm

Christine suggested to have another meeting to vote. Randy suggested taking a vote at this meeting. Other agreed and vote took place as follows:

	Randy	Don	Juli	Peter	Tristan	Doug	Christine		Total
William Craven		1			1	1			3
Jim Rubens	1	1	1	1	1		1		6
Lawrence Crocker	1			1		1	1		4
Stacy Malecki			1						1
Geoffrey Wheeler	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		7

**Doug/Tristan moved to appointment Jim Rubens, Lawrence Crocker and Geoffrey Wheeler to the Airport Commission (for a 3-year term starting March 1<sup>st</sup>). Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don – yes, Tristan- yes, Juli – yes, Christine - yes. Motion carries.**

**The County Commissioners' Association** meeting will be held at Plymouth on 1-30-2026. It was asked that any topics for the meeting be given to Christine. Doug would like to bring up the DOR relationship with the counties. Commissioners attending: Juli, Don, Christine, Tristan, Doug. Martina is also going.

\*Juli V. left the meeting 5:12pm

#### **Manager's Report**

Due to the lack of applications received, Martina asked for an extension on the Health Council application deadline to March 18th and extended current term members to March 31st. Kathleen Samways will attend the March 18<sup>th</sup> commissioners meeting to review the Health Council appointment process.

**Doug/Peter moved to approve the deadline for the application for the Health Council to be extended to March 18<sup>th</sup> and extend the current members' term to March 31st. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don – yes, Tristan- yes, Christine -yes. Motion carries.**

**Randy/Doug moves to adjourn the meeting. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don – yes, Tristan- yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries. The meeting ended at 5:20pm.**

**Calendar -** The next county commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> at 4pm.

**Certified by:**

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

