

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 12, 2025
4:00 PM
Remote Meeting

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

County staff: Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira, Martina Thornton

Other: Norm Werthwein, Cameron Naron

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

Minutes from 10-29-25
Deferred to next meeting

Airport Lease Renewal

Doug would like to defer this to the next meeting, as he was not at the last land use committee meeting.

Committee Updates:

Finance Committee none

Land Use Committee none

Legislative Committee Doug met with Representative Moakley, who raised the housing issue in the state forest and stated it is moving forward. They also discussed Steamship issues, but no news on term limits. Doug brought up the right-hand turn lane leaving the airport. Representative Moakley is aware of the need to work with DCR.

Communication Committee- The Commission received a letter from the Citizens Action Committee criticizing Jim Malkin, requesting that action be taken. The Communications committee recommends a reply thanking them for their letter and mentioning that his appointment is up on February 28, 2026.

Nomination Committee- Letters of interest for expiring term members will go out today.

Manager's Report –

We received a check for \$15K from MV Community Foundation for the county Emergency Fund to purchase food gift cards to help people when requested, especially those affected by the SNAP benefit cuts.

Peter/ Don moved to accept the grant as presented. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

Information regarding the federal government and State actions relative to the SNAP Benefits is being updated often on the website.

Oak Bluffs Jet Ski Bylaw was not approved by the State; therefore, for now, there is no way to enforce the Bylaw in Sengekontakt Pond.

Island-wide Emergency Management Strategic Planning – in-person workshop was held on November 6th at the Oak Bluffs Fire Station with very good participation.

Personnel Updates

Director of Health and Human Services – Sarah Kuh and Martina have identified two finalists who will be interviewed on Thursday, November 13th, by Sarah, Christine, Juliet, and Martina.

Building Updates

Center for Living – the punch list was completed for various minor repairs identified. Martina is gathering quotes for the roof repair.

Health Care Access – two additional small offices were created in the back of the building, and they should be finished by next week.

County Administration Building – Martina was successful in obtaining a much lower proposal than the original estimate, so we will be contracting to get it done in the next month or so.

New Business

Peter mentioned the MV Commissioners Meeting tomorrow at 6pm and invited all commissioners to attend.

Randy/Doug move to adjourn the meeting. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Don-yes, Christine- yes. Motion carries.

The meeting ended at 4:32pm.

Calendar

- The next county commissioners meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd at 4pm.

Certified by:

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

