

Dukes County Commission (DCC)
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 3, 2025
4:00 PM
Remote Meeting

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

County staff: Juliet Mulinare, Paulo DeOliveira, Martina Thornton

Other: Diane LaCivita

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

Martina introduced the new Health and Human Director Diane LaCivita. She will start in January.

Minutes from 10-29-25 and 11-12-25

Doug/Peter moved to approve the minutes from 10-29-25. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Randy/Peter moved to approve the minutes from 11-12-25. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Grant from MV Community Foundation - \$23,750 for community dental clinics

Randy/Doug moved to accept the grant from MV Community Foundation \$23,750 for dental clinics. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Juli- abstain, Don-yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Randy/Doug moved to accept a grant from Farm Neck - \$2,000 for Stop & Shop gift cards. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Juli- abstain, Don-yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Inter-Municipal Agreements (IMA)

Opioid Abatement Funds Pooling Agreement (all towns in the County except for Oak Bluffs are participating.)

Tristan/Doug moved to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement Regarding Use and Expenditure of Certain Opioid Abatement Funds. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Regional Services Umbrella Agreement - This agreement has been accepted by Aquinnah, Chilmark, Oak Bluffs, Tisbury, and West Tisbury. Edgartown approved a 2019 version, which is a little bit different. So far, they were not inclined to sign this updated IMA.

Doug/Tristan moved to approve the Umbrella Services Agency Agreement as presented retroactively to July. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Don-yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Committee Updates:

Nomination Committee- All Appointment positions have been advertised.

Randy/Tristan moved to reappoint Peter Wharton as the county's representative to the MV Commission. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Don-yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Peter/Juli moved to appoint James Hegarty to the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority for the remainder of the current term, expiring Feb 28, 2026. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Don-yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Land Use Committee- Next meeting will be on December 16th.

Airport Lease Renewal for the land, the administration building is up in June 2026, and if the County wants to renew, we need to give the Airport at least 180 days' notice. The renewal will be for another 20 years. The Land Use Committee is recommending giving notice to renew. Doug wanted to be on record that he is still baffled by the fact that the county is paying rent for land the county owns. Peter and Randy explained the ruling as to why.

Peter/Randy moved to send the Airport a notice that the County would like to renew the lease for 9 Airport Road, Edgartown. Doug- yes, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Don-yes, Tristan- yes. Motion carries.

Communication Committee- Doug is looking for approval for the distributed communication plan outline prepared by the Communications Committee, to set priorities and stay focused.

2026 opportunity- The committee would like to work with the MV Museum to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and of the Island's history. Doug asked the group if the committee should move forward in looking into this project. Tristan would like to see more of a focus on diversity or just the Island's history. Randy thinks it would be worthwhile to test the waters and gather information. Juli believes it's worth looking into. Peter is for looking into more information if it doesn't cost the county anything.

Website Update- The county is changing website providers. We will have a new functional site for January 1, 2026. Doug will be reaching out for input for updates and any changes that are needed.

Finance Committee- Next meeting is 12-9-25. Randy will meet with Juliet to review the status of DOR information needs.

Manager's Report – on file

Building Updates

Center for Living – Martina is gathering quotes for the roof repair.

County Administration Building –Work on the front deck should be done by the end of the month.

Doug wants a new sign at the health care access building. He would like Vineyard removed, and Dukes County added in larger letters.

Randy/Peter moves to adjourn the meeting. Doug- no, Randy- yes, Peter- yes, Juli- yes, Tristan- yes, Don-yes. Motion carries.

The meeting ended at 5:01pm.

Calendar

- The next county commissioners meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17th at 4pm.

Certified by:

T. George Davis, Clerk of Courts

