



Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING OF JANUARY 29, 2024

via remote technology

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 pm

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Steven Ewing, Pamela Goff, Wesley Mott, Sarah Thulin, Nancy Weaver, Peter Wells

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Kristen Reimann

STAFF PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Harrison Kisiel, James Lengyel, Julie Russell

OTHERS PRESENT DURING THE SESSION

Peter Cook, Sharon Cooke, Philip Cordella, David Greenman (*Martha's Vineyard Times*), Thomas Humphrey (*Vineyard Gazette*)

PRESENTATION OF THE WARRANT

Warrant no. 2024-32 was made available for the Commission's inspection.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Hearing no proposed additions, Mr. Mott declared the agenda approved as presented.

Commissioner Kristen Reimann joined the meeting during the following discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2024

By a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted in a roll call vote six in favor, none opposed and Ms. Weaver abstaining to approve the minutes as amended.

COUNTY AND LAND BANK COMMISSION TREASURERS' REPORTS

None

TRANSFER FEE REVENUES

Revenues for the week ending January 12, 2024: \$158,886.00

Revenues for the week ending January 19, 2024: \$411,165.00

Revenues for the week ending January 26, 2024: \$ 99,530.00

NEW BUSINESS

1. Squibnocket Pond Reservation (Town of Aquinnah)

The Commission reviewed a January 22, 2024 staff memorandum regarding this property's management plan. It details the various amendments to the plan required by the commonwealth's environmental affairs secretary.

Discussion variously occurred as to (1.) the core changes from the original plan, viz., added restrictions on dogs and horses and bicycles, plus a redefinition of "season"; (2.) the expenses associated with the expanded corps of rangers that must be supplied, which can only be reconsidered after a quinquennium; (3.) the town permits that must be received under the various district-of-critical-planning-concern regulations — and the likelihood that the required plan revisions will ease their receipt; (4.) whether the staff had any particular concerns, to which staff replied that arranging for rangers in the shoulder-season could be difficult; (5.) the reality that staffing will be expensive for the land bank despite Sheriff's Meadow Foundation's (SMF) actual handling of the personnel, as the overall cost-sharing agreement between the organizations will result in the land bank's reimbursing SMF for a portion of its outlay; and (6.) the frustration of having dog-walkers refuse to cooperate with the staff in implementing land management plans.

After discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to approve the plan, as amended by the environmental affairs secretary.

PUBLIC INPUT

1. Agency Administration: Public Input

Philip Cordella spoke to (1.) the planned reservation system for trailhead parking on various properties; and (2.) the use of any oversight cameras. Peter Cook spoke to (1.) the role of the Town Advisory Boards; and (2.) keeping abreast on Commission affairs.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE WARRANT

The Commission endorsed Warrant no. 2024-32.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

By a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the purchase, lease, exchange or value of real property. Mr. Mott stated that the subjects to be discussed are the purchase or value of real property and declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Commission. He further announced that the Commission would not reconvene in regular session after the conclusion of the executive session. The Commission entered executive session at 3:14 pm.

certification:



Kristen Reimann, Secretary