



Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING OF MAY 3, 2021

via remote technology

CALL TO ORDER: 3:01 pm

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

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

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AT CALL TO ORDER

None

STAFF PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Harrison Kisiel, Cynthia Krauss, James Lengyel, Julie Russell

OTHERS PRESENT DURING THE SESSION

Sharon Cooke, Philip Cordella, Paul Hansen (Ecopixel)

PRESENTATION OF THE WARRANT

Warrant no. 2021-49 was made available for the Commission's inspection.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

By a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF APRIL 26, 2021

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

COUNTY AND LAND BANK COMMISSION TREASURERS' REPORTS

None

TRANSFER FEE REVENUES

Revenues for the week ending April 30, 2021: \$1,189,371.40

NEW BUSINESS

1. Agency Administration: Website

The Commission reviewed an April 26, 2021 staff memorandum summarizing proposals received, following a public issuance of a request-for-proposals, for the redesigning of its website, plus a recommendation: fiscal officer Cynthia Krauss, who is overseeing this project, recommends that the land bank award it to Ecopixel, as she believes that its proposal came closest to the land bank's specifications. This matter had been most recently discussed at the Commission's March 22, 2021 meeting.

Extensive discussion occurred, during which Paul Hansen, present and representing Ecopixel, affirmed (1.) that, long prior to the finalizing of the website, the land bank would be supplied it in draft form so that it could critique breadth and usefulness of the product as it is being prepared; and (2.) that Ecopixel understands the need to tailor its product [a] around documents too old to be available in any form other than PDF and [b] around redaction requirements regarding endangered species information and [c] around various specialty items the land bank may wish to see on its website.

After discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to accept Mrs. Krauss's recommendation. Commissioners will communicate with her any ideas — e.g., soliciting photographs from property visitors; topographic maps for universal access properties; and the like — and staff will add sufficient funds to the draft budget for fiscal year 2022. Mr. Hansen departed the meeting at this time.

2. Agency Administration: Personnel and Staffing

Land superintendent Harrison Kisiel reported that he and Mr. Lengyel had conducted interviews for the hiring of a new crew manager, most recently discussed at the Commission's March 22, 2021 meeting, and that he wished to recommend Antone Lima for the position. Mr. Lima is currently one of the land bank's conservation land assistants.

After discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote (1.) to accept Mr. Kisiel's recommendation; (2.) to assign Mr. Lima to step 4 of grade 11 on the agency's employee remuneration schedule, which, as of July 1, 2021, will be \$73,618; and (3.) to direct staff to advertise for the conservation land assistant position vacated by his promotion. Mr. Lima will next be eligible for a step increase in July of 2023.

3. Caleb's Pond Preserve (Town of Edgartown)

The Commission reviewed a draft management plan for this property, prepared by staff.

After discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote (1.) to accept the plan, as a draft; and (2.) to refer it to its Edgartown Town Advisory Board for review and public hearing.

4. Squibnocket Pond Reservation (Town of Aquinnah)

The Commission reviewed an April 1, 2021 proposal submitted by the tribe for a herring and eel monitoring project involving this property. Ecologist Julie Russell reported that the purpose of the research is to boost the fishery in the Menemsha Pond - Squibnocket Pond complex by tracking the activity of herring; using tagged fish and an antenna system at the mouth of the Black Brook, which is located on this reservation, the tribe will seek to determine the extent to which the brook is necessary to the herring's lifecycle.

Ms. Russell recommended approval, provided (1.) that access to the brook occurs only via boat; (2.) that researchers wade only in the brook itself — penetrating no more than 20 feet in from the Squibnocket Pond — so as to avoid creating bankside paths; and (3.) that proof is supplied as to approval both by the town (under the wetlands protection act) and the commonwealth natural heritage program.

After considerable discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to grant approval, jointly with the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation as co-owner, provided (1.) that Ms. Russell's conditions are met; and (2.) that Ms. Russell oversees the project, to the extent feasible given her many pre-commitments.

5. Agency Administration: Performance Evaluation

Staff excused itself and the Commission conducted its annual review of the performance of its executive director. Mrs. Thulin will share the results with Mr. Lengyel.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ENDORSEMENT OF THE WARRANT

The Commission endorsed Warrant no. 2021-49.

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. Mrs. Thulin 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. She further announced that the Commission would not reconvene in regular session after the conclusion of the executive session. The Commission entered executive session at 4:06 pm.

certification: Wesley T. Mott
Wesley Mott, Secretary