



Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

MINUTES
REGULAR SESSION
MEETING OF MAY 17, 2021

via remote technology

CALL TO ORDER: 3:00 pm

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Steven Ewing, Pamela Goff, Sarah Thulin, Nancy Weaver

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Wesley Mott, Kristen Reimann, Peter Wells

STAFF PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

James Lengyel

OTHERS PRESENT DURING THE SESSION

Thomas Chase, Philip Cordella

PRESENTATION OF THE WARRANT

Warrant no. 2021-51 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 MAY 3, 2021

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

COUNTY AND LAND BANK COMMISSION TREASURERS' REPORTS

None

Commissioners Wesley Mott and Peter Wells joined the meeting at this time.

TRANSFER FEE REVENUES

Revenues for the week ending May 7, 2021: \$448,113.00

Revenues for the week ending May 14, 2021: \$523,495.70

NEW BUSINESS

1. Sweetened Water Preserve (Town of Edgartown)

The Commission reviewed an application filed with the Edgartown Conservation Commission by abutter 31 Llewellyn Trust “to construct a single-family dwelling and accessory structures.”

By a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to direct staff to post a “rather strong” letter to the town enumerating the land bank’s concerns about impacts to wetland resources — on-premises and more broadly in the Beetle Swamp complex — possibly occasioned by the proposed development. The letter should also inform the town that the locus lacks a right-of-way across the preserve, even though abutting lots enjoy such right.

2. Agency Administration: Grant Application

The Commission reviewed (1.) a May 15, 2021 letter from Thomas Chase of the Village and Wilderness Project outlining a potential, and ongoing, source of funding for undevelopment, viz., the Beatrice Barrett Planet Earth Fund; and (2.) a draft letter, prepared by staff, from the land bank to the Martha’s Vineyard Community Foundation (MVCF) seeking such funding for undevelopment projects at the James Pond and Tashmoo Preserves. The MVCF will be applying for such funding to the Fund, which is overseen by the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and, if received, will pass it through to the land bank.

Mr. Chase reported that the grant could amount to as much as \$80,000 annually, which is the interest produced by the \$1.5 million in the Fund that he himself had raised when he was a TNC employee. Ms. Weaver asked if the funds could be used to encourage the salvaging of undeveloped structures; Mr. Chase stated that, while the answer is yes, salvage costs are “minuscule” compared to total undevelopment costs.

After discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously in a roll call vote to approve the draft letter to the MVCF and to direct staff to post it.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

ENDORSEMENT OF THE WARRANT

The Commission endorsed Warrant no. 2021-51.

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 3:23 pm.

certification:

Wesley T. Mott
Wesley Mott, Secretary