



# Martha's Vineyard Land Bank Commission

MINUTES  
REGULAR SESSION  
MEETING OF MAY 20, 2019

167 Main Street. Edgartown, Massachusetts

CALL TO ORDER: 2:00 pm

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Pamela Goff, Richard Knight, Jr., Wesley Mott, Kristen Reimann, Sarah Thulin,  
Nancy Weaver

LAND BANK COMMISSIONERS ABSENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Mary Robin Ravitch

STAFF PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER

Cynthia Krauss, James Lengyel, Ian Peach

OTHERS PRESENT AT CALL TO ORDER (and not cited elsewhere herein)

None

PRESENTATION OF THE WARRANT

Warrant no. 2019-23 was made available for the Commission's inspection.

PUBLIC INPUT

None

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2019

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

COUNTY AND LAND BANK COMMISSION TREASURERS' REPORTS

None

TRANSFER FEE REVENUES

Revenues for the week ending May 10, 2019: \$ 95,458.50

Revenues for the week ending May 17, 2019: \$190,747.12

NEW BUSINESS

1. Agency Administration: Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

The Commission reviewed a draft budget, prepared by staff, for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2019.

Line items and category totals were scrutinized; no amendments were deemed necessary.

After discussion and by a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously (1.) to approve the budget, as presented, as a draft; and (2.) to submit it to its Town Advisory Boards for consideration at an all-island meeting to be scheduled for June 3, 2019. Mrs. Krauss departed the meeting at this time.

2. Agency Land Management: Trail-Marking and -Mapping

The Commission discussed (1.) whether its print-version conservation lands map is or is not, in concept, obsolete; (2.) whether the land bank should cede to the MV Trails app, orchestrated by the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation (SMF), primary responsibility for disseminating conservation land information to the general public; and (3.) whether the land bank should on its own lands adopt the new SMF trail marking system, in which sunfast orientation maps (SOMs), in miniature, appear at trail intersections and other strategic locations.

Mr. Peach stated that he was planning to install SOMs on select land bank properties this year. Commissioners agreed (1.) that he should do so in as many locations as possible, starting with confusing properties such as the Wapatequa Woods Reservation; (2.) that wooden wayfinding signs should now be discontinued, as superseded by SOMs; (3.) that actual land ownership of the island's various properties should be made clear wherever possible, to avoid undercrediting any particular conservation group; and (4.) that staff should return with details of a possible upgrade of the land bank website, acknowledging in advance that such upgrade will require the expenditure of some cash.

3. Agency Administration: Sheriff's Meadow Foundation

The Commission examined a draft SMF fundraising brochure which spotlighted various "jewel" properties around the island, some of which are owned by SMF and others of which are not. Commissioners agreed by consensus that

SMF should, in the interest of avoiding confusion, identify in some way each property's owner. Mr. Peach departed the meeting at this time.

4. Agency Administration: Oak Bluffs Selectmen

Mrs. Reimann reported that the Oak Bluffs selectmen recently considered the extent of land bank acquisitions in town and discussed whether some of the land bank's funds, in a "shift of focus," should be allocated to affordable housing. They wish to bring the matter to an all-island selectmen's meeting.

Discussion occurred. Mrs. Thulin stated that she believes that voters are expecting, over the course of the next year, an island-wide effort to fashion a housing bank for consideration by the town meetings; the particular funding mechanism reviewed by the town meetings this year was not accepted but the concept was not rejected. Mrs. Goff stated that the land bank continues to support the adding of some percentage to the transfer fee, for affordable housing, so as to fund that goal without simultaneously having "to kill the land bank."

After discussion, the Commission agreed that staff should confer with bond counsel, in order to assess any possible legal implications.

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.

ENDORSEMENT OF THE WARRANT

The Commission endorsed Warrant no. 2019-23.

ADJOURNMENT

By a motion made and seconded, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn.  
4:44 pm

certification:

  
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Mary Robin Ravitch, Secretary