

THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

BOX 1447 • OAK BLUFFS
MASSACHUSETTS 02557
(508) 693-3453
FAX (508) 693-7894

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 1989

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION MEETING

The Martha's Vineyard Commission held a Special Meeting on Thursday, December 14, 1989 at 8:00 p.m. at the Martha's Vineyard Commission Offices, Olde Stone Building, New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs, MA.

Mr. Early opened the special meeting at 8:10 p.m. and remarked on how good it is to be back in the Commission offices for our meetings, the last meeting held here was on May 25, 1989. He continued by stating that we do have a variance, a contract with Creative Lifts Co. to install a chair lift, a temporary handicap access unit, and several people trained in its operation. Mr. Early then proceeded with agenda items.

ITEM #1 - Chairman's Report - There was none.

ITEM #2 - Old Business - There was none.

ITEM #3 - Minutes of December 7, 1989

It was motioned and seconded to approve the draft minutes as presented. There was no discussion. This motion passed with no opposition, 1 abstention, Sibley. (Harney was in favor, Allen abstained.)

Mr. Early then turned the meeting over to Mr. Jason, Commissioner, for the next agenda item.

ITEM #4 - Election of officers.

Mr. Jason, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported that they had nominated the following slate of officers: Mr. Woodward Filley, Chairman; Mr. James Young, Vice-Chairman; and Mr. Albert O. Fischer III, Clerk/Treasurer. He called for additional nominations. There were none. He then called for motions.

It was motioned and seconded to close the nominations and approve the slate of officers as presented. There was no discussion. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Early then skipped to Item #6 on the agenda.

ITEM #6 - Possible Vote - Written Decision, George Manter DRI,
Town of West Tisbury

It was motioned and seconded to approve the written decision as presented. There was no discussion. This motion passed with a vote of 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention, Bryant. (Harney was in favor, Allen abstained.)

ITEM #5 - Committee and Legislative Liaison Reports

Mr. Morgan, Legislative Liaison, reported that Representative Turkington had visited the Island towns today and the towns had many questions for him, predominantly what's going on at the State House? and what is the status of possible tax increases? Included in his responses was that there probably won't be a capital gains tax but a road tax is likely.

Ms. Harney, Commissioner - Governor's Designee, reported that last week Ms. Bryant, Commissioner, called to her attention a hearing taking place at the State House Tuesday with Mr. DeVillars to discuss budgets. I cleared my schedule, attended this hearing and was able to testify for about 10 minutes. I discussed the Commission, its background and current budget status. The response seemed receptive. Following the hearing I was able to speak to Governor Dukakis. As you may remember I had discussions with him in September and was told that money was forthcoming, however we have heard nothing. At this time the Governor told me that \$40,000 is slated for the Commission and that I should discuss the additional \$100,000 with Mr. Bob Givens. I want to thank Ms. Bryant, Mr. Early, and Ms. Borer for their support during my attempts to reinstate the budget. I also want to thank Mr. Early for his service as Chairman in light of his decision to step down.

Mr. Early asked Ms. Harney if the Commission has a line item on the budget for 1991? Ms. Harney stated not according to the last thing I heard but I did discuss this with the Governor and stated that it is imperative. I will be speaking to Mr. Given about this also.

Mr. Saxe, MVC Staff, discussed the Oak Bluffs Planned Development District (PDD) and stated that the timeline on this DCPC will run out on February 15, 1990. Draft by-laws have been presented which consist of a 2 tier process, development of a master plan and specific site development plans. There was lively discussion at a meeting tonight with the Oak Bluffs Town Boards and the PDD Committee. There will be another meeting next Thursday at 4:30 p.m. at the Oak Bluffs Town Hall. Copies of the proposed by-laws are available if anyone is interested.

Ms. Borer, Executive Director, reported that the Edgartown Ponds DCPC Committee had met and acted on 2 exemptions this week. We will be scheduling a working session in January to work on guidelines for regulations to be presented to the Edgartown Planning Board.

Mr. Young, Chairman of Land Use Planning Committee (LUPC), reported that they would be meeting Monday at 4:30 p.m. at the Commission offices to come up with a recommendation for the Dreamland Garage DRI and to take another look at the M.V. Hospital Expansion DRI. There will also be discussion on the M.V. Shipyard and Campbell Oil DRIs and Tisbury Boards have been invited to participate in these discussions. Mr. Young continued by stating that as you may have heard West Tisbury and Chilmark are meeting again on the Millbrook Subdivision proposals. They have suggested that they would like LUPC's input in regards to the Environmental Impact Statements required of the applicant by the towns. Mr. Adams, MVC Staff, has prepared a draft outline and LUPC members should get a copy from him for review. We will set up a workshop to go over this outline and form a recommendation for the Planning Boards.

Mr. Early then turned the meeting over to Ms. Harney and Mr. Filley, Co-Chairperson of the Comprehensive Planning and Advisory Committee.

Mr. Filley asked Mr. Adams to pick up with the review of the Draft General Policies.

Mr. Adams reviewed the current general policies and stated that housing is the only area where a specific policy has been adopted since this 1975 version. He stated that Health Care and Human Services is a new area for general policies and there are no policies in effect.

Growth management was discussed briefly. There was agreement that a sustainable rates of growth needs to be established and that growth rates should reflect the varying needs of the community, such as open space, educational and recreational facilities, and affordable housing.

The following comments were made in regard to open space policies: the wording should be tightened up, it sounds inconsistent; recommendation that a percentage base be determined for open space that should be used in DRI review; agreement that the existing policies needed to be made more specific; that some open space is gratuitous and open space that is taking land off the tax roles while not providing public access should be looked at closely by the Towns; that we should address more public access to the beaches under both open space and economy since it is tourist related; that hunting should be addressed under open space in that it helps to provide a balancing of the ecology and also economic benefits for the hunters.

Water quality issues were discussed including the following: specific guidelines should be made to regulate the quality of water at the lot line; the sole aquifer needs protection; the wetland by-laws on Martha's Vineyard should be more stringent than the Wetland Protection Laws; consideration should be given to expanding the zones of contribution to 3,000 feet; the management and maintenance of the wetlands should be encouraged in addition to preservation; the Comprehensive Plan should include a statement on the need for Island-wide dredging; developers should be charged impact fees for the protection and availability of shellfish propagation.

Economic issues that were discussed included tourism: the need for better management of the tourist economy; the recognition that we are presently a summer season economy; that we need to recover the tourist economy and provide the services necessary to maintain this economy; we should encourage hotel/motels to provide transportation services for their patrons; there was discussion on daytrippers and whether or not they are more of a drain on the Island, per capita, than the long term visitors, detriments of daytrippers included debarking en masse at one port, minimal spending potential, and inadequacy of services for them including bathroom and transportation, advantages of daytrippers included the fact that usually eat at restaurants, don't bring cars and shop for souvenirs and gifts whereas long term visitors bring a larger amount of money but most of it goes to the owners of the rental property and the supermarkets since they usually don't stay in hotels, they bring cars with them, and they tend to eat at home. Diversification of the economy through encouragement of traditional and low environmental impact industries was also discussed.

Island wide capital planning was discussed including the need for it, possible head taxes to provide for increased services and promoting Island self-sufficiency through promotion of traditional industries, such as fishing, shellfishing, agriculture, etc.

Regarding transportation, the following comments were made: concerning the reference to hitchhiking turnoffs, isn't hitchhiking now illegal?, there was some discussion about this, signage in Tisbury prohibiting hitchhiking, and the need for turnoffs on the road whatever they are called; suggestions that the sentence referencing hitchhiking turnoffs should be eliminated; that subdivision plans should include provisions for public transit in the way of access and turnoffs; consideration of making the SSA responsible for Island land transportation and that fact that the cost of a single ticket (without vehicle) could be used to subsidize land transportation without creating a head tax.

Health Care and Human Services is a new addition to policy topics and policies will need to be adopted to address these issues. There was discussion on recent attempts to get funding for an Island-wide nurse who could assist in many aspects of health service including education of the young; there was discussion of the drug situation at the high school and how an Island-wide nursing program might address this; the fact that the Sheriff's Department is discussing hiring a nurse and perhaps a cooperative relationship could be worked out through the Commission.

Discussion on housing policies included the following: that the Commission's affordable housing policy adopted in 1986 should be incorporated into this document; that the relationship between open space and affordable housing should be examined and that these need to work harmoniously.

Community facilities discussed included: year-round recreation facilities for all age ranges, specifically the young; provisions for

public restroom facilities and access to public beaches and hunting rights were also discussed under this topic.

Government Coordination Policies were discussed including the need to maintain the 6 town's individual characters and autonomy while providing regional services.

Following discussion on the Commission's policies Mr. Early returned to agenda items.

ITEM #7 - New Business

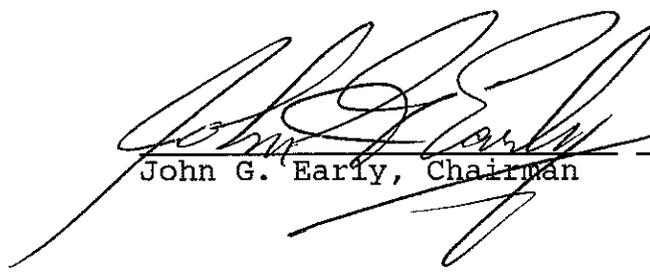
Mr. Early reminded Commissioners of the Finance Committee meeting Wednesday, December 20th, 7:30 p.m. at the Commission offices and he asked Commissioners to urge their town's representatives to attend.

ITEM #8 - Correspondence

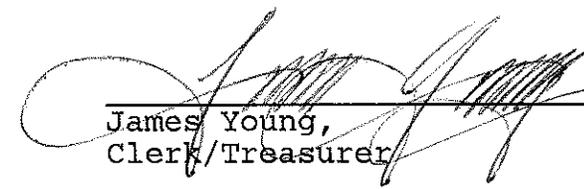
Mr. Early called Commissioners attention to a copy of a letter dated December 5, 1989 from the Edgartown Selectmen (provided in the Commissioners' packets and available in the meeting file). Briefly this letter states that the Selectmen "feel that this is an appropriate time to review the Commission's accomplishments, to reassess what the goals are and to look toward the next fifteen years with a fresh perspective".

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

ATTEST



John G. Early, Chairman Date 12/21/89



James Young,
Clerk/Treasurer Date 12/21/89

Attendance

Present: Bryant, Colebrook, Early, Eber*, Filley, Fischer, Greene, Jason, Morgan, Schweikert, Sibley, Sullivan, Wey, Young, Allen, Harney.

Absent: Ewing, Lee, McCavitt, Geller, Davis.

* Ms. Eber left the meeting at 8:45 p.m.