

THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 1992

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION MEETING

The Martha's Vineyard Commission held a Special Meeting of the Commission on Thursday, March 5, 1992 at 7:30 p.m. in the Commission Offices, Olde Stone Building, New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs, MA.

Jenny Greene, Chairman of the Commission called the meeting to order at 7:46 p.m. and explained the purpose of the meeting. She asked all present to introduce themselves.

Mr. Schweikert asked if there were any others present who were from the business community other than those at the table. There were none. Guests present were - Renee Balter of Oak Bluffs Association and Sue Cooperstreet of Edgartown Board of Trade.

Renee Balter explained what was going on in Oak Bluffs and showed the items that had been developed for the group. She discussed how they were being distributed and discussed the use of the booth at the Boat Show. She also discussed the use of a directory of all media sources in New England. The Association screened the directory and then mailed information plus a press release to all of them. She then discussed the new information booth that was being built and installed in Oak Bluffs at the base of Circuit Avenue. She hoped that a sufficient number of retired or elderly persons knowledgeable in Oak Bluffs matters can be found to help man the booth. She then discussed the problems of a lack of rest rooms and the times when they were available. She discussed how the town attempted to address the problem. She discussed the need to do more for the tourist and the town, the better things can be. She discussed the "restroom sweepstakes", and how it was proposed to be run.

Mr. Schweikert asked if there had been any assistance or encouragement from local officials. Not at first but seemed willing to listen. She then discussed a meeting recently which provided information on the composting toilet system. She also noted that there had been a great deal of assistance from the Chamber of Commerce. She discussed the funding help from the state. She also discussed a walking tour map that was being produced.

Mr. Colaneri indicated that the Association should be commended for doing what was done. Ms. Balter indicated that the business community was ready for such activities. She also noted that there was a walking tour of all inns scheduled.

Mr. Best questioned whether the off-season should be the area of

concentration. He asked whether the Association would be looking for help from the Commission for off-season times. A discussion of shoulder seasons as compared to year-round followed.

Ms. Balter discussed the activities that were proposed for the month of June. She felt people would come if the word was put out. A discussion of the use of press releases followed. Ms. Balter discussed public relations and how it is best done. She further discussed local advertising methods.

Mr. Best discussed the possibility of coordination between all the business groups on the Island. A discussion of this matter followed. A discussion of the work of the Chamber followed. A further discussion of the events presently scheduled followed.

Sue Cooperstreet discussed the problems created by the conflicting dates at Christmas time this year.

Mr. Colaneri noted that there had been a previous discussion of a calendar. He asked Angeljean Chiaramida of the Chamber who was in charge of the island-wide calendar. She wished that there was such an item. Ms. Greene noted the Commission would volunteer to keep a clearinghouse record to eliminate conflicts. Ms. Chiaramida indicated that the Chamber already did that with their events calendar. She discussed the conflict that had occurred this past December. She then discussed the type of calendar that the Chamber used.

Sue Cooperstreet, Edgartown Board of Trade, discussed the 350th celebration of Edgartown and the methods of attempting to schedule events. She further discussed the activities that had already been put together and other things that were to be attempted. She indicated the work in Oak Bluffs was admirable. She also felt the Chamber was doing a great job but needed some assistance. She felt there should be a professional press package available to distribute at piers, exhibits and various shows. She discussed a visit by travel writers later this month and what was being planned for their visit. She discussed the hope that all three towns might work more closely in the future.

Ms. Balter discussed attempts to get all artists on the Island together (Martha Thurlow). She noted that they were trying to get the word out that they existed and could use the help.

Ms. Greene discussed the coop ventures of some craftspersons.

Matthew Vanderhoop explained the long-term hopes of the Tribal Council. He discussed the possibility of the town turning the circle at the Cliffs over to the Tribe for future use as a business area. He discussed the need to promote activities such as fishing again. He then discussed the possibility of cultural activities. He discussed the need for the town and the Tribe to work more closely together.

He discussed some of the potential activities that could be used in the future to increase the economic well being of the area. He discussed a cultural center, amphitheater and the like.

Mr. Schweikert questioned whether there would ever be gambling at the Tribal lands. Mr. Vanderhoop indicated no clue to the wording of the legislation that recognized the Tribe.

Ms. Sibley discussed the types of business being suggested. Mr. Vanderhoop indicated that traditional forms of endeavors were the ones being pursued.

A discussion of the herring run and its usefulness followed.

Mr. Vanderhoop discussed the potential of an Atlantic Salmon farm and the need to be cautious in dealing with prospective businesses.

A discussion of what may be situated at the circle followed.

Mr. Hall discussed the usage of the clivus mulcham system for septic systems and the potential for usage at the Cliffs. A discussion of this matter followed.

Mr. Colaneri questioned any role for the Commission in working with all the towns for future activities.

Ms. Balter felt the meetings were helpful and felt that additional ones would be of benefit.

Mr. Lee felt that the Commission might sponsor a forum of all town business associations and further discussed the use of a calendar.

A discussion of island-wide activities followed.

Mr. Early discussed the need to keep in mind what the Commission was good at and what should not be duplicated. A coordination role was possible. He noted that there was to be an economic development Task Force convened in the near future.

Ms. Balter discussed the need to search out funds and to get the word out to the towns.

Ms. Sibley asked how many members of each group were open year-round. Ms. Balter felt less than half. Ms. Cooperstreet was uncertain. Ms. Chiaramida felt about thirty percent.

Ms. Chiaramida discussed each of the Associations and praised their efforts. She felt the Commission should help them with secretarial help. She felt that any monies that could be funnelled to them would be appreciated.

Mr. Hall discussed the state office of tourism and questioned how they benefited the Island.

Ms. Sibley discussed the need for providing quality for tourists and that the Commission should concentrate on more year-round potential. A discussion of this matter followed.

Mr. Schilling discussed the increase in proprietors on the Island between '69 and '89; the total number employed being over 9,000 persons.

A discussion of the need to help the year-round economy of the Island followed.

A discussion of the need to promote agricultural activities again on

the Island followed. Mr. Hall discussed the farmer's market in Nantucket.

Ms. Greene thanked all for participating.

A brief recess was called.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:13 p.m.

ITEM #1 -

ITEM #2 - Review discussion -

Mr. Clifford discussed the Task Force that was being developed and that it would be used as a part of the study of the Business Park at the Airport.

ITEM #3 - Minutes of February 20, 1992 -

It was moved and seconded to approve as written. Several questions were raised regarding information that was requested of the Charter Commission. Ms. Greene asked that the minutes reflect the items that were requested for the final draft. Those items were the breakdown of the 100,000 dollars, a clarification of Chapter 34A and the staffing issue; processes under Chapter 34A; budgetary process. Mr. Schweikert raised a question regarding the DCPC exemption and a second structure on the corner of Samoset and Kennebec Avenues. A discussion followed. The minutes were approved with 4 abstentions (Lee, Schweikert, Vanderhoop, Sibley).

ITEM #4 - Committee and Legislative Liaison Reports

Chairman's Report - it was noted that Mr. Friedman was headed home.

LUPC - Ms. Greene discussed the meeting regarding the proposed Silva subdivision; the LUPC felt it was insignificant. She also discussed the Chilmark Planning Board letter regarding the Sturgess subdivision. A discussion of this matter followed.

A discussion of what would happen if an item that was a DRI was never sent to the Commission, and what options were available to the Commission followed.

PED - no report

A discussion of the Task Force and who was invited followed. Mr. Schilling noted those persons who had been invited to participate. A discussion of the role of the Task Force followed. A discussion of including a fisherman followed.

ITEM #5 - Discussion - (passed over)

ITEM #6 - Possible Vote - (passed over)

ITEM #7 - Old Business - There was none.

ITEM #8 - New Business - Silva subdivision

Mr. Clifford explained the proposal, the history of the proposal and what was currently before the Commission. The Commission must concur or not concur with the proposal being a DRI. Mr. Clifford read a letter from the West Tisbury Planning Board. The LUPC recommended that it not be a DRI. Mr. Jason moved that the proposal was insignificant and should not be a DRI; duly seconded. Mr. Hall questioned whether there were any conditions placed on the original subdivision. None were found in the decision. On a voice vote the Commission voted that the proposed change was of an insignificant nature and therefore did not require review. (unanimous)

ITEM #9 - Correspondence -

Ms. Greene read a letter from Angeljean Chiaramida of the Chamber of Commerce regarding a possible brainstorming session between both boards.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

ATTEST


Jane A. Greene, Chairman 4/09/92
Date


Thomas Sullivan,
Clerk/Treasurer 4/09/92
Date

Attendance

Present: Best, Colaneri, Donaroma, Early, Greene, Hall, Vanderhoop, Jason, Lee, Schweikert, Sibley, Marinelli

Absent: Briggs, Bryant, Alley, Sullivan, Benoit, Clarke, Allen, Bolling, Chapin, Gallagher