Martha’s Vineyard Commission
Minutes for the Regular Meeting of
April 18, 2002

The Martha’s Vineyard Commission (the MVC or the Commission) held its Regular Meeting on Thursday, April 18, 2002, at 7:30 p.m. in the Baylies Room of the Old Whaling Church, Main Street, Edgartown, Massachusetts. At 7:43 p.m., Commission Chairman James R. Vercruysse called the meeting to order.

[Commission members present at the gavel were: J. Best, C. Brown; J. Greene; T. Israel; M. Ottens-Sargent; L. Sibley; R. Toole; J. Vercruysse; K. Warner; R. Wey; A. Woodruff; and R. Zeltzer. Ms. Cini arrived at 8:16 p.m.]

The Chairman noted that the Public Hearing for the Wind Farm project proposed on Nantucket Sound was being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission was providing the venue for the Hearing, and the Commissioners would also be free to provide input. The Chairman then turned the Hearing over to Lawrence Rosenburg, Chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

[The Wind Farm Hearing continued until 10:00 p.m. See the Commission’s meeting file for a transcript of the hearing.]

The Chairman resumed the meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Vote: Tisbury Inn Reconstruction Written Decision (DRI #550).

On the matter of the reconstruction of the Tisbury Inn (DRI #550), the Commissioners voted unanimously (Ms. Warner abstaining) to approve the Written Decision as depicting the action of the Commission at its March 28, 2002, meeting.


Ms. Warner reminded the Commissioners of the May 2, 2002 Meeting to talk about the Commission. It will be a Full Commission Meeting rather than a PED Committee meeting. She stated to the Staff members present that they do not have to attend if they desire not to.
New Business: Whether to Hold a Rescission Hearing for the Island of Chappaquiddick DCPC Moratorium.

Acting Principal Planner William Veno explained that although the citizens of Edgartown had not voted to adopt the Chappaquiddick DCPC at Town Meeting, the DCPC designation and its 12-month development Moratorium remain in place until June 6, 2002. The DCPC Designation and Moratorium could be rescinded by a vote of the Commission after a Public Hearing on the matter. While it would take three weeks to hold the hearing, a rescission could shorten the period people must wait for development permits by three weeks. Mr. Veno summarized that the question before the Commission is whether it wishes to hold a hearing on the rescission question.

On Motion by Ms. Brown, seconded by Ms. Sibley, the Commission voted unanimously, but for Mr. Israel, who abstained, to schedule the matter for Public Hearing at the earliest possible date, May 16, 2002.

Approval of Minutes.

The Commissioners discussed the Draft Minutes of their March 21, 2002 Meeting. Ms. Greene stated that the Minutes should not include editorial narrative. Nor is it appropriate for Commissioners' remarks to appear in the summation of votes. Ms. Greene also stated that the interruptions by the public at that meeting should not appear in the Minutes because the public had not been invited to speak. Mr. Israel countered that the Minutes merely reflect what occurred. After some discussion, Mr. Israel moved, seconded by Mr. Wey, to approve the Minutes as amended but leaving the public's unsolicited comments. The Chairman asked for a hand vote:

AYES: T. Israel, R. Wey, and A. Woodruff.

NAYS: Seven Commissioners.

ABSTAINING: K. Warner and two others.

Ms. Sibley wanted to know what language should be substituted for the public's outbursts. Ms. Brown stated that minutes are a record of actions and not necessarily a transcript. Mr. Best remarked that omitting the public's comments was in no way erasing their comments, the tapes of the meetings will contain them. He did not, however, want to give credence to people who disrupt a meeting by making them part of the minutes. Ms. Greene noted that Ms. Cini had created some substitute language to insert in the minutes and moved, seconded by Mr. Best, to approve the minutes as amended. The Chairman called for a hand vote:

NAYS: T. Israel.

ABSTAINING: K. Warner and A. Woodruff.

Several Commissioners noted that this vote should establish policy for future minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

PRESENT: J. Best, C. Brown; M. Cini; J. Greene; T. Israel; M. Ottens-Sargent; L. Sibley; R. Toole; J. Vercruysse; K. Warner; R. Wey; A. Woodruff; and R. Zeltzer.

ABSENT: J. Athearn; A. Bilzerian; M. Donaroma; E.P. Horne; J.P. Kelley; C.M. Oglesby; K. Rusczyk; and R.L. Taylor.

[These Minutes were prepared by Acting Principal Planner William Veno from his meeting notes.]