

Martha's Vineyard Island Roads Committee

C/O MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

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Minutes of Meeting 12

Date: June 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

Location: MVC Offices, 33 New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs

Present:

Committee Linda Sibley (Chair, MVC), Dan Greenbaum (Chilmark), Fred Hancock (MVC), Ernie Thomas (West Tisbury), Juli Vanderhoop (Aquinnah), Craig Whitaker (Tisbury)

MVC Staff: Mark London, Bill Veno

The meeting was chaired by Linda Sibley who opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of April 23, 2015 were approved with two minor corrections.

2. Work Program

It was agreed to make additional changes to the Work Program to reflect the discussions at the meeting with elected officials and MassDOT (see item 3), namely to clarify which proposed Island guidelines conform to the MassDOT Project Development and Design Guide, and which would require Design Exceptions.

Craig questioned whether it is a good sales document for informing the general public or raising funds. Fred said that this is a technical work program and a separate sales document could be prepared.

Craig said he might have additional suggestions.

Once all the Committee's proposed changes have been prepared, we'll have to run this by the consultants as their name is on the recommendations. We should aim to keep the changes limited and focused, as their contract has been completed and the amount of time they'll be willing to put into reviewing this are probably limited.

3. Meeting with Elected Officials and Inventory

Craig had set up a meeting with Senator Wolf, Representative Madden, and MassDOT officials on May 28, 2015.

Fred objected to Craig having set this meeting up in a way that elected officials and MassDOT representatives understood it to be on behalf of the MVC; however, the MVC Chairman, the Island Roads Committee Chairman, and MVC staff were unaware of this. Craig said that this was due to a misunderstanding.

The meeting notes from that meeting are attached to these minutes.

For those Island guidelines that are not in conformance with the MassDOT Project Development and Design Guide, it is not clear whether it would be desirable and possible to get a blanket sign-off from

40 MassDOT and FHWA on different standards for Martha's Vineyard, or whether it is preferable to
41 seek Design Exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

42 Dan said that the MassDOT guide provides a lot of flexibility and we should use Design Exceptions if
43 at all possible; he doubted that MassDOT and FHWA would agree to blanket changes. He noted that
44 there is still a lot of confusion between state roads, local roads using state funding, and local roads.
45 The Commonwealth's and FHWA's standards apply to the first two categories, but not the third.

46 Craig raised the possibility of FHWA involvement in the planning process. MassDOT had said that
47 they would inform them, but didn't expect them to actively participate. It was agreed that we should
48 contact pertinent FHWA officials about best practices elsewhere, but not involve them until there was
49 a general agreement with MassDOT.

50 Linda questioned the proposal to fund the study and manual from Chapter 90 funds. These are funds
51 given to towns for badly needed roadwork. She questioned whether the Island Roads Committee or
52 MVC should be proposing to do this and noted that this would have to be approved at each town's
53 Town Meeting. We should focus on other public or private funding. Also, she suggested that we put
54 less emphasis on Martha's Vineyard being "different from other places", and put more emphasis on
55 the Island being "one of many special places" and this effort being a prototype of how to deal with
56 the specialness of each location. Craig agreed that it would be problematic to use Chapter 90 funds
57 and that we should seek other funding.

58 Craig noted that he raised the possibility of the House and Senate Transportation Committee visiting
59 the Island this fall or next spring.

60 **4. Other Issues**

61 Linda suggested having a booth at the Agricultural Fair, though it might be too late for this year.

62 The question has been raised as to what constitutes a quorum of the Committee. We should clarify
63 who is currently a member, and discuss whether we want to make a quorum 50% plus one or set
64 another number.

65 Mark noted that the draft of the latest version of the Martha's Vineyard Transportation Plan would be
66 released on Friday, June 19, for a 30-day public comment period. It is available on the MVC website
67 home page. It includes several references to scenic roads. Island Roads Committee members should
68 review the document and submit comments if they wish before the July 20 deadline.

69 **5. Next Meeting**

70 The next meeting of the Island Roads Committee will be held on Thursday, July 23 at 5:45 p.m.