

West Tisbury Community Preservation Committee

Minutes of September 2, 2026 Meeting

Remote via Zoom

Approved September 23, 2026

Call to Order: 5:30 PM

Committee Members Present at Call to Order: John Christensen, John Rau, Cheryl Lowe and Ernie Thomas.

Committee Members Joining via Zoom: Sundy Smith and Rise Terney.

Staff Present at Call to Order: Maura Valley, Administrative Assistant

Others Present at Call to Order: Kate DeVane, Island Autism

Minutes for Approval: June 24, 2026 and July 31, 2026 – Cheryl Lowe moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Ernie Thomas and unanimously approved.

Public Hearing:

1. Slide Presentation

John Christensen provided a slide presentation explaining what the Community Preservation Committee does, how to apply for funding and the application review process/schedule. An estimated total of \$894,513 is available to distribute this year.

2. Public Input

Kate Devane gave an update on the status of Island Autism's house one, stating that they had just had the ribbon cutting. At this point two residential referrals have been received from Department of Developmental Services which will be reviewed by TILL (Toward Independent Living and Learning) to determine if they meet eligibility guidelines. It is expected that the first residents will move in by November. Construction of house two is under way with Bob and Derek Avakian as the contractors rather than Woodpecker Brothers. Kate has put together a report which she will email to Maura for distribution to committee members.

New Business:

- 1. Committee Reorganization/Membership** - This issue will be placed on a future agenda.

2. Funding Returns

- **Dukes County Regional Housing Committee** – Cheryl Lowe moved to return \$14,144.00 remaining from FY26 funding to the Housing Reserve Fund. Motion seconded by John Rau and unanimously approved. (John Rau – yes, Ernie Thomas – yes, Cheryl Lowe – yes, Sundy Smith – yes, Rise Terney – yes, John Christensen – yes)
- **Mill Brook Watershed Management** – Cheryl Lowe moved to return \$10,268.56 remaining from the project to the Open Space/Recreation Reserve Fund. Motion seconded by John Rau and unanimously approved. (John Rau – yes, Ernie Thomas – yes, Cheryl Lowe – yes, Sundy Smith – yes, Rise Terney – yes, John Christensen – yes)

Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 5:30 pm at the Public Safety Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM on a motion made by Cheryl Lowe and seconded by Ernie Thomas.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Valley
Administrative Assistant