

**MINUTES OF THE WESTPORT VILLAGE SOCIETY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026 @ 6:30 PM
Westport Community Center and Zoom Video Conference**

1. Call to Order: - Establish Board Quorum /Agenda

Mr. Thad Van Bueren, President/Chairman welcomed all attendees and called the Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. Notice to Directors included a preliminary Meeting agenda. Quorum established with Board Members present at the inception of the Meeting: **Mr. Thad Van Bueren, Ms. Sheila Winslow, Mr. Robert Finnell, and Dr. Madison McKenney.** Not attending: Mr. Bill Knapp, Mr. Beck Regalia, and Ms. Tabitha Korhummel. Also in attendance in person: Mr. John Allison, Mr. Cy Wilcox, and Mr. Rob Holt (representing WCC Board of Directors and facilitating audio-visual remote attendees). Via zoom videoconference: Mr. Gary E. Weiss and Ms. Victoria Patterson. After some audio issues that were resolved, it was confirmed that each participant could hear and be heard by others.

Mr. Van Bueren chaired the Meeting and Mr. Finnell (Secretary) recorded the Minutes of the Meeting. The Board reviewed the preliminary agenda. The Board then moved forward with the presented agenda.

1. Review and Discussion of WVS Headlands Event Application Process.

Mr. Van Bueren welcomed all attendees and framed the two agenda items that were to be reviewed and discussed at this Special Meeting. The first and primary topic being: Review and Discussion of WVS Headlands Event Application Process and the second topic: Review and budget discussion for the May 10, 2026 WVS revived annual Ducky Race Event. Mr. Van Bueren provided an overview of the current WVS Headlands Event Application process and challenges managing such events by the WVS Board. Mr. Van Bueren opened the floor to attendees to voice their opinions, concerns and benefits of applicant potential access to lease the WVS Headlands for special events, principally the majority have been wedding events. Mr. Finnell expressed his concern that proposed applicants desiring to hold commercial events on the Headlands would result in a drift away from the WVS Mission Statement objectives and purpose. Concerns were also raised about the fact that WVS is not chartered to act in the manner of a traditional chamber of commerce to stimulate local commercial business activities. Mr. Finnell also noted that WVS coordination and management of certain events (notably *not* the WVFD fundraising annual BBQ) has been historically lacking in execution. Ms. Winslow noted she was interested in and willing to facilitate such events as a Board Member, principally for local community residents, but remained concerned about the Chamber of Commerce issues that do not typically fit with WVS goals. Dr. McKinney supported preference for local resident community events and was not yet on board with broader third party events. Mr. Van Bueren noted that the Grant Deed from the Coastal Conservancy concentrated on preserving the land and providing reasonable public access rights. The prior events that were local included the prior Whale Festival Event (month of March), local artisan fairs/shows, WVFD annual fundraising BBQ and some recent local resident family private weddings. At approximately 6:57, after the remove audio issues were resolved, Mr. Wilcox and Mr. Alison both independently voiced favor of the local resident events that were previously held on the WVS Headlands. Ms. Patterson inquired about any critical need for WVS to raise funds and Mr. Van Bueren noted that currently raising funds to increase the WVS financial accounts has not been a current critical need. A suggestion was made by Mr. Wilcox to mandate a “wedding coordinator” as part of the application process as an idea to consider. Mr. Wilcox also stated his opinion that the application/access fee is much too low and recommended a large increase. Mr. Weiss also supported the hiring of local labor, designed to better manage the events. Mr. Holt provided input that any process should be designed to limit any issues that place the Headlands at risk of being damaged and local curfew conventions should be respected. He also foreshadowed possible unintended consequences of (7:14 pm).

After further discussion, with questions asked and answered, Mr. Van Bueren offered a motion for resolution (Mr. Finnell seconded), that Ms. Winslow volunteered to act after May 2026 to coordinate on behalf of WVS to facilitate approved Headlands Events; and that this discussion continue towards review of the current application template before the full Board of Directors at the April 22, 2026 Regular Quarterly Board Meeting.

2. Planning and Budget Update for May 10, 2026 WVS Duck Race Event.

Dr. McKinney provided an update on the Ducky Race Event Planning. It was noted that the current prior Ducky Race Event materials in the storage shed, were somewhat lacking, and in particular there is a need for a replacement Tent Frame that is used for the sanitary netting process for food service. The Westport Hotel and Abalone Pub has graciously volunteered to prepare and provide/deliver various food choices for the Event. Questions were asked and answered regarding the process of posting the Event Posters around the Village promoting the event principally to the local community. Mr. Finnell suggested that the Switzer Farm wedding guests departing that day be invited to attend the Ducky Race Event. Mr. Weiss thought that was a good idea.

Upon motion duly made (Van Bueren) and seconded (Winslow), it was RESOLVED that WVS approves a budget of up to \$4,000 for Ducky Race Event expenses and the goal would be to break-even financially or possible positive charitable donation to WVS.

Adjournment. The Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Robert D. Finnell, Secretary - Westport Village Society, Inc., a 501 (c)(3) organization.

WVS Mission Statement: Supporting local charitable and educational projects and fostering the preservation and interpretation of the environment since 1992.