

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

September 9, 2014

Present: Peter Rodegast Prudy Burt, Nate Morgan, Mike Turnell, and Binnie Ravitch

Absent: Whit Griswold and Tara Whiting

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Chris Alley, Tom Della Rocco, Mark Cronin, Josh Scott, Kristen Fauteux, Becky Rockwood, Mark Rockwood and Tom Rockwood

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 P.M.

Minutes: Minutes of the September 2 were approved as revised. Binnie abstained.

Public Hearings:

Map 7 Lot 15/SE79-248: continuation of a public hearing under the requirements of G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended and the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Morse Real Estate Trust for property located at 30 James Pond Way. The project consists of the demolition of an existing dwelling and the construction of a new dwelling, relocation of septic tanks and associated site work within the buffer zone. There not being a quorum of members eligible to vote on this matter, this public hearing was continued to October 14 at 5:10 PM.

New Business:

Map 3 Lot 15/ 78 Bartimus Luce Road /Rockwood: Informal discussion with Chris Alley and members of the Rockwood family regarding a possible coastal bank stabilization project. This is a 6.5 acre parcel containing a main house, garage/guest house and a cottage all of which were built prior to 1978. Chris displayed a site map and described the site conditions. There is a stream that runs to the south and east of the house that discharges on the beach near a stairway in front of the cottage.

There are two distinct projects the Rockwoods would like to pursue. One is a project to stabilize a section of coastal bank adjacent to the stairs in an area that has seen some erosion from wave action. The cottage is more than 100 feet from the top of the bank.

The second project is to address a sheer failure on the face of the coastal bank near the main house and garage/guest house. The slump was caused by ground water that is approximately 18 inches from the surface rather than surface erosion or erosion caused by wave action. The garage/guest house is approximately 41 feet from the top of the bank.

Chris described a possible project using gabion blankets or mattresses, crushed stone, filter fabric and perforated piping that would divert the groundwater.

Because the buildings pre-date 1978, they are entitled to protection under the Wetlands Protection Act and the local bylaw. Chris told the board that a coastal geologist from the Woods Hole Group visited the site and determined that it was not a coastal issue.

It was explained to the Rockwoods that the structures on their property were probably not in imminent danger of being threatened by erosion and that one alternative to constructing something on the face of the bank would be to look at moving the structures back from the top of the bank. The Commission has never dealt with this situation before so they would most likely hire a consultant to review an application at the applicant's expense. No action was taken.

Fire Department Picnic/Dock for a day: At the request of Manny Estrella, Maria asked the members if the fire department could place a dock at an undetermined location at Flat Point Farm on Tisbury Great Pond so that the fire department could give rides on the pond during their annual picnic. A motion was made and seconded to deny this oral request for lack of sufficient information in order to make a decision and a permit application. The vote on the motion was unanimous.

Old Business:

Maps 5 & 13 Lots 1, 4 and 5/SE79-309/ Cedar Tree Neck/Kristen Fauteux: Review of plans to restore the neck under special condition 6 of the Order of Conditions.

Kristen explained that the plan to use goats to remove bittersweet and Japanese Black Pines from the neck has evolved. Earlier this year, the Commission approved the installation of fencing to better manage the goats. Work to install the fencing has been slow because of site conditions. Sheriff's Meadow recently purchased a billy goat mower and has devised a way to boat it over to the neck. They would like permission to use the mower in the Buffer Zone. A site visit will be conducted on October 9. In the meantime, Kristen will have the limits of the 25 foot No-Disturbance Zone and the edge of the Buffer Zone flagged. No action was taken.

Map 35 Lot 6.3/SE79-346/Segal: This Order of Conditions required the applicant to conduct work to open up the view channel in two phases. Phase one has been completed. As required by special condition # 12 of the Order, two site visits were conducted to determine the number of oak stumps and other trees to be removed in phase two. Based on these site visits, Josh was asked to submit a revised project description for phase two.

A motion was made and seconded to approve tasks 1, 2, 4 and 5 of the revised project description for phase two dated 9/8/14 and to approve the start of this work. Approval of task 3 which covers the pruning and shaping of the remaining plant material in the outer buffer zone, will require another site visit. All in favor.

Administrative:

Correspondence:

In: Letter from Michael Colaneri dated September 2, 2014 regarding report from Acoustics consultant

There being no new business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED