

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 8, 2015

Present: Prudy Burt, Whit Griswold, Binnie Ravitch, Peter Rodegast, Michael Turnell and Tara Whiting

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Kristin Fauteux and Marc MacFarlane

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 P.M. Tara Whiting, Chairman presiding.

Minutes: The minutes of the November 24 meeting were approved as amended. Binnie abstained.

Continued Public Hearings/Meetings:

Map 34 Lot 10: 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., for a project to remove and treat a 8,250 square foot stand of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) within a saltmarsh located at 65 Carl's Way. The property is owned by George S. and Joan P. Thomas Trustees. The applicant has requested a continuance of this public meeting because DEP has not issued the file number yet. DEP is reviewing additional paperwork that was required for approval of an ecological restoration project. At the request of the applicant, a motion was made and seconded to continue the public hearing on this matter to December 22 at 5:40 PM. All in favor.

Old Business:

Maps 5 & 13 Lots 1, 4 & 5/SE79-309/Sheriff's Meadow Foundation/Kristen Fauteux: Members reviewed the list of work approved under the Order of Conditions with Kristen and Marc.

Blue Trail View Channels: The Order anticipates that Sheriff's Meadow Foundation would come back for permission to establish view channels after the trail was in place. Kristen said she is not asking for permission at this time. The existing views are good.

Goats: The purpose of having the goats in this area is to get rid of the bittersweet and restore the open character of the "Neck". Kristen said she is hoping to have 9 goats next season. There was no limit on the number of goats under the Order. She said the goats have been making a difference on a small scale. No bittersweet has come back in the area where the goats have been grazing.

Kristen said they would like to begin mowing within the 100ft buffer zone in the areas viewed at the site visit. The mowing would extend to the fence line. On the plan she submitted, orange is the fence line and path. The darker blue is the No-Disturbance Zone. The fence delineates the limit of work.

Areas outside the Commission's jurisdiction have been mowed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the plan submitted under Special Condition #6. All in favor.

Map 14 Lot 8/Un-named Tributary to Priester's Pond/Seven Gates: In 2012 the Commission worked with Seven Gates to insure that fencing and a gate would be installed to keep Mr. Packer's cows out of this brook and that Mr. Packer would find an alternative means of providing water for the cows instead of letting them drink from the brook. A site visit with Seven Gates staff will be arranged in order to ascertain whether fencing was put in place to keep Ralph Packers cows out of the un-named tributary that flows into Priester's pond.

Prudy submitted photos she took after a recent rain storm that showed the water in this brook to be very muddy. Prudy reported that she saw Ralph Packer's cows in the field three weeks ago.

Tara said that Animal Inspector, John Powers, was asked about conditions at Arrowhead farm and the former Rogers property now owned by Molly and Becky Cournoyer to find out if conditions at either property could also be a source of runoff into this brook. No action was taken.

Map 3 Lot 91/SE79357/Lambert's Cove Beach Path: In order to monitor changes in the elevation of the dune, special condition #11 states that Parks & Recreation Commission, was required to submit a plan to measure elevations from the peak of the dune and along the slope to the toe of the dune twice a year to the Conservation Commission for their approval. The plan was to be submitted no later than the date of removal of the boardwalk at the end of the 2015 season. This is an ongoing condition that does not expire with the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance.

The subcommittee members agreed that the Conservation Commission would take care of putting the monitoring in place.

Members discussed the goals of the monitoring and the various methods that might be used to accomplish these goals. A surveyed benchmark could be installed or a pipe (s) could be installed ten feet from the side of the path in order to measure the highest point of the path to the top of the pipe.

Michael suggested that a surveyor set the benchmark. That would allow data to be collected. The benchmark could be tied into sea level. Whit said he wants to know how the dune is moving laterally. Peter said that would be more of a topographical survey.

Tara will ask Maria to check with Reid Silva to see if he has any suggestions and to get an estimate of what it might cost. No action was taken.

Map 7 Lot 52/Van Nes/ Goats: Paperwork has been filed.

Edgartown West Tisbury Road at Mill Pond: Tara will talk with Darren Welch, the State Highway superintendent about placing erosion control measures under the fence rails along the path that runs past the Mill Pond that is in the state highway layout.

Administrative:

FY 2017 Budget: The expense budget has been level funded. Personnel services increases are wage adjustment and longevity. A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget as prepared and the budget submission document as amended. All in favor.

Letter of Recommendation for Nate was approved.

Correspondence:

In: Board of Health/Livestock/Barn Review form

There being no new business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED