

WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING

February 27, 2007

Present: Prudy Burt Chair, Judy Crawford, Peter Rodegast, Tara Whiting, Pat Durfee, Debra Swanson and Maria McFarland

Absent: Peter Rodegast

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Glenn Hearn, Donnie Mills and Bill Wilcox

Prudy Burt called the meeting to order at 5:10 P.M.

The minutes of the February 13, 2007 meeting were approved as corrected.

There were no public hearings this evening

Old Business

Mill Pond Warrant Article: Glenn was present to discuss the warrant article and a short-term solution to the weed situation in the Mill Pond. The Selectmen decided not to place an article on the ATM warrant for \$75,000 to do the design and permitting phase of a dredging project on the Mill Pond this year. Glenn asked the members if a weed-pulling project, done by hand, would require a permit. Glenn said he spoke to Keith Gazielle about other alternatives including the use of herbicides. The use of herbicides is the least desirable method and would require an Order of Conditions and the hiring of a licensed herbicide applicator. Aquatic Technology Control Inc (“ATC”) could provide more information on this method. Glenn asked if volunteers could be used to pull the weeds. It was explained that it would be unadvisable to have a group of unsupervised volunteers doing this work, as there are certain species that cannot be removed. Those species would have to be flagged. A small-scale hand-harvesting project is feasible; it would need to be well supervised and would require a permit from the Commission.

Mill Brook /Pond Watershed Study: Part of the ongoing discussion with the Selectmen regarding the Mill Pond included whether a study should be conducted of the Mill Brook/ Pond watershed. In January, Keith Gazielle of ATC provided the Commission with a sample proposal and estimated cost of around \$10,000 to do this watershed study. Bill Wilcox reviewed that proposal and was present at the meeting today to discuss how the MVC would be able to conduct this watershed analysis for approximately \$2,100.

After discussion a motion was made to have the MVC begin to study the Mill Brook/ Pond watershed. In the meantime, a funding source will be found.

It was agreed that the Commission would present a committee report at town meeting concerning the study of the Mill Pond and the decision not to pursue a dredging project at this time.

New Business

Map 26 Lot 1: Conservation Restriction from Harriet D. Hickie, Trustee of the Harriet D. Hickie Trust u/d/t dated February 11, 1974 recorded in the Dukes County Registry of Deeds in Book 315, Page 138 (the “Trust”) to the Martha’s Vineyard Land Bank Commission for property

owned by the Trust between Old County Road and Old Courthouse Road in West Tisbury as shown on Assessors Map 25 Lot 11 and Map 26 Lot 1. As the Commission's appointee to the WT Land Bank Advisory Board, Tara answered questions on this CR.

Donnie Mills, an immediate abutter said he supports the CR 100%, but he is concerned about the public wandering off the trail that will be established along the boundary line of his property by the Land Bank as part of this CR. Donnie said he has plans to meet with Matthew Dix, Land Bank Foreman and Tom Hickie to discuss posting the trail as a first step and fencing if it becomes necessary. He used the Land Bank's Tea Lane property as an example. Donnie is concerned about attractive nuisances and does not want the public wandering onto his working farm. It was suggested that Donnie put his concerns in writing to the Land Bank and the Hickies.

There being no further discussion, a motion was made to sign the Municipal Certification and recommend this CR to the Board of Selectmen for approval as being in the public interest in that it accomplishes the following:

- (1) Furthers the preservation and protection of the natural character of West Tisbury including open space and farmland; and
- (2) Provides public access to the conservation area through the establishment of a walking trail for use by the general public for passive recreational purposes such as hiking, bird watching, and enjoyment of views of the Mill Brook and will abut the Land Bank's existing 37-acre Square Field Preserve and thus is of public benefit.

The motion was seconded and the vote in favor unanimous.

Map 7 Lot 170 – Smith: The Commission received notice of a ZBA special permit hearing on March 7th. The Board of Health will also be reviewing this project on March 8th. To date the Commission has not received a Notice of Intent. Prudy will attend the ZBA meeting; Maria will go to the BOH meeting. One abutter has called the office inquiring about this project.

Administrative

Estuaries Project: The warrant article for the final phase of funding for the Mass Estuaries Project was reviewed and approved.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED