

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 9, 2018

Present: John Brannen, Prudy Burt, Whit Griswold, Peter Rodegast, Michael Turnell and Tara Whiting

Absent: Binnie Ravitch

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Kent Healy

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M. Tara Whiting Chairman presiding.

Minutes: The minutes of the December 12 meeting were approved as revised. Tara abstained.

Continued Public Hearings:

James Pond/SE79-364: 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 the West Tisbury Board of Selectmen and Herring Warden for a project proposed at James Pond and Map 6 Lots 13 and 20. The project consists of work associated with breaching the barrier beach at James Pond including dredging the associated meander for the purpose of restoring a fish passageway, placement of fiber rolls and salt marsh plantings. No quorum being present, the public hearing was continued to January 23rd at 5:10 PM.

New Business:

Tisbury Great Pond /Subcommittee: John, Whit and Prudy have expressed an interest in forming a subcommittee to focus on the estuaries project water quality monitoring.

John read from the February 2107 technical report on the Island wide water quality testing for 2016. (This is the first report on three years of testing.) He wanted to know why there is no data in this report for Tisbury Great Pond. Maria explained to the Board that she went through emails and minutes to sort out what the Board knew about the all-island water quality testing project. She read from various emails from Sheri to the office and to Kent regarding securing funding from the Riparian Owners for 2016 testing. It is clear from the emails and from Kent's comments that there a series of miscommunications about who was doing what and who was paying for testing in 2016.

Maria went on to explain that the 2017 testing has been done and will be included in the second year report. When the report comes out in 2018, data for Tisbury Great Pond will be included. Maria will confirm that Sheri has obtained funding for 2018.

John suggested that we meet with the MVC after the meeting with the DEP on the 23rd. Members had a lengthy back and forth discussion about a variety of issues with the water quality testing.

Kent reiterated his desire to see the Commission take over responsibility for Tisbury Great Pond. Members agreed to continue this discussion after the meeting with DEP on the Draft TMDL report to be held on January 23 at 1PM. No action was taken.

Letter of Support/ Stream Continuity Specialist: A motion was made and seconded to approve to send a letter supporting the funding and hiring of a new Stream Continuity Specialist at the Division of Ecological Restoration/ Department of Fish and Wildlife. All in favor.

Mill Brook Watershed Study: Prudy circulated a draft of the section of the watershed study report on water withdrawals and diversions for comment. She explained that current law requires a permit for water withdrawals of more than 100,000 gallons per day. Before the watershed committee started its work, this board asked the Selectmen for access to counsel to discuss the possibility of the creating a water withdrawal bylaw. The Selectmen wanted to wait until after the study was completed. Members gave her several suggestions for edits. No action was taken.

Friends of the State Forest/ Tara: This group will meet with Chris Bruno, the State Forest superintendent at the Tisbury Senior Center on January 23 at 7: 00 P.M.

Old Business

Mill Pond Dam/Fishway/Revised Operation and Maintenance plan: A motion was made and seconded to approve this plan as revised. All in favor.

Administrative:

Warrant Articles:

Wetland Bylaw Filing fees: A motion was made and seconded to approve the submittal of a warrant article for the continuance of the revolving fund for bylaw fees. All in favor.

James Pond: Members discussed placing an article on the annual Town Meeting warrant to cover costs associated with the project to maintain the fish passageway for herring in James Pond. Whit said he has commitments from Riparian Owners for a sum of money.

Peter suggested preparing a preliminary budget. Between now and the next meeting Whit will work to firm up an estimate for the cost of the equipment and labor. Mike and Prudy offered to work on determining the amount of plant material that will be needed. No action was taken.

Map 39 Lot 2.21/ SE79-98/Certificate of Compliance: A motion was made and seconded to sign the Certificate of Compliance for a permit from 1993 for view channels. All in favor.

Correspondence

In Map 39 Lot 7/ Eden/ Pease/ Wilkinson Nourishment report
Map 39 Lots 9, 10 & 11/Eden/Wilkinson nourishment report
Technical Memorandum Final Water Quality Monitoring Assessment of the MV Island-wide Estuaries and Alt Ponds Summary 2-10 (year 1 of 3)
James Pond: Comment letter from NHESP dated December 29, 2017

There being no new business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 6: 20PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED