

**Approved 7/6/16**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, June 15, 2016 4:00 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.**

**Present:** Selectmen Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Jennifer Rand

**Also Present:** Tom Chase, Frank Giso, Kate Warner, Michael Colaneri, Heather Hamacek

**Moment of Silence:** Richard read a statement in condolence for the victims of the Orlando shooting and asked for a moment of silence.

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 5/31/16. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

*S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 6/01/16. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Homer Watcha Trust Conservation Restriction (CR) Request to Change:** Frank Giso said he was a Trustee for the Trust, he provided a map of the property showing the proposed trails as well as the abutting lots that are also owned by the Trust or Mr. DuBlois. He noted that there is a total 314 acres; the property in question is 142 acres. He said that the Restriction was created in 1992, at the time there were neighbors with horses, so the owner restricted horse trails in order to assure horses were not ridden all over that property. Horses are allowed, with permission, on the existing road. Tom Chase, of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which holds the CR, said they approved of the change, because they do an analysis of the request and make a determination if there is an “overwhelming conservation benefit”. The benefit to the Nature Conservancy would be the addition of controlling interest in another parcel that abuts two parcels currently owned by TNC. This would give them contiguous ownership of three lots, which would allow them to undertake habitat restoration. Mr. Giso noted that the addition of horse trails would enhance safety as now the horses are ridden on the road. Richard asked how much horse traffic there was. Mr. Giso said he didn’t know; right now there is only one person allowed to use the property in this manner. The Board read a letter from the Conservation Commission, who said they were not in favor of granting the change because they did not like the precedent of allowing any change and because of concerns about habitat fragmentation from the creation of new trails. Cindy asked Mr. Chase if he disagreed with the Conservation Commission. He said on concept no, the concern about fragmentation is one that he shares, but the facts of this case do not create fragmentation, the species of concern on the property will still have the protective canopy of the trees, which is what their habitat is. Mr. Giso said that the State office of Environmental Affairs has approved the concept already. Cindy asked why the change was being requested. Mr. Giso said it made the property more saleable, he noted the “no horses” restriction was placed there by the owner originally not TNC. Skipper said he appreciated Mr. DuBlois’s generosity in the past, but asked if there was any public benefit or access to the trails. Mr. Giso said there would not be any public access to the property. Skipper said he was reluctant to approve the change with no benefit to the public. Richard asked if the trails would be cut immediately. Mr. Giso said no. The Board asked that the Trust go back to the Conservation Commission and see if they could come to some resolution about the habitat fragmentation.

**Bikes Lanes on State Road:** Kate Warner said she would like to see bikes lanes added to State Road, currently she said the road is very dangerous for people to ride on, and bike paths beside the road are not terribly safe. She said it would require widening the roads by 4’. Jen will look into the possibility at the next Joint Transportation Committee meeting.

**Veteran's Memorial Plaque:** The Board reviewed the mock-up of the plaque, Alan Gowell suggested adding 2" more to accommodate new names and Michael Colaneri said he would like the names of the wars served listed at the bottom. The Board asked Jen to make sure there was enough money in the warrant article for the work.

*C. Mitchell motioned to accept the mock-up of the plaque with the suggested changes. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Appointments:** *S. Manter motioned to John Brennan to the Conservation Commission for three years. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

*S. Manter motioned to Andrew Woodruff to the Land Bank Advisory Board for one year. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

*S. Manter motioned to the Town Clerk as the Town's "Records Access Officer" with no expiration date. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Mill Pond Plaque:** *S. Manter motioned to the final wording of the plaque as amended after the Board's input at the previous meeting. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*