

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 10, 2017

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

Absent: Binnie Ravitch and Michael Turnell

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Carly Look

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

The minutes of the December 13 meeting were approved as revised. All in favor.

Continued Public Hearing:

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.

There was not a quorum for this public hearing. No testimony was taken. The hearing was continued to February 14, 2017 at 5:10 PM.

Map 31 Lot 3/ SE79- SE79- 75/677 Old County Road: 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 Sourati Engineering Group LLC on behalf of David Burt for a project to regrading and landscaping within the Riverfront Area and landscaping within 100 feet of a bordering vegetated wetland. Prudy recused herself from participating in this hearing.

Carly submitted the landscaping plan revised to show the changes discussed at the last meeting. The plan now shows a 25 foot buffer divided by a 30 foot mowed area along the pond and a 5 foot wide path to the blueberry bushes. The Alaskan Cedar has been changed to a Beetlebung tree. The Sourati site plan will be revised to show these changes.

Carly asked the board to close the public hearing and vote on the project without having the NHESP letter. The board declined to do so.

A motion was made and seconded to continue the public hearing to January 24 at 5:10PM. All in favor.

New Business:

Grant Opportunity: The Division of Ecological Restoration has put out a request for responses to fund a long term culvert replacement training project that would provide assistance to towns that have high ecological value culverts in need of replacement because they do not meet the state stream crossing standards. Prudy described the culverts at Old Farm Road, Priester's Pond and Witch Brook on North Road and the one at Tiah's Cove Road as possible candidates. These culverts were the subject of an Aquatic Habitat Connectivity Survey of the Mill Brook done in August of 2012 the Division of Ecological Restoration.

Funding is for the purpose of gathering field data in connection with the replacement of a failed culvert to meet the MA Stream Crossing Standards and to provide a training opportunity for local highway departments to develop better designed stream crossings. The deadline to file the grant application is January 27. The Division of Ecological Restoration will award up to \$25, 000 for one culvert per town. There is a total of \$50,000 available state-wide.

It was suggested that the Commission discuss filing this grant opportunity with the Board of Selectmen before doing so.

Members reviewed a copy of the grant application summary. Much of the information required in the form can be taken from the above report. According the grant summary, the contact person for this project is the Highway Department. The Board would like to take the lead on this project if possible.

Prudy said the Mill Brook Watershed committee discussed this grant opportunity at its meeting on January 9. She said Kent Healy might be able to provide some of the details asked for in the application concerning storm events and flow data.

Whit wondered if it was premature to go after this money and asked if it should until the Mill Brook Watershed committee issues its report.

Tara said she would be willing to meet with the Selectmen to see if they will agree to allow this board to apply on behalf of the highway department.

Maria will ask Tim Chorey at DER if the Commission can take the lead on this application. Tara will speak to Richie Olsen, Highway Superintendent.

Administrative:

2016 Annual Report: A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2016 Annual Report as revised. All in favor.

Warrant Article: A motion was made and seconded to approve the warrant article for the continuance of the revolving fund for bylaw fees. All in favor.

Correspondence:

In: Map 39 Lots 9 & 11/ 234 Middle Point Road/Eden/ Monitoring Report
Mill Brook water temperature data submitted by Prudy Burt

There being no new business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 6: 10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED