

WEST TISBURY  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
June 13, 2017

**Present:** John Brannen, Whit Griswold, Binnie Ravitch, Michael Turnell, Peter Rodegast, Peyton Wallace and Tara Whiting

**Absent:** Prudy Burt

**Staff Present:** Maria McFarland

**Also present for all or part of the meeting:** Sheri Caseau and Emily Reddington

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

The minutes of the May 23 meeting were approved as written.

**Map 31 Lot 6/ SE79-379:** a public hearing under the requirements of G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended, and West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Sourati Engineering Group LLC on behalf of the heirs of Barbara F. Fales for a project located at 699 Old County Road. The project consists of the demolition and reconstruction of a detached bedroom/pool house, the demolition of a garage/detached bedroom and the construction of an addition to an existing single family residence together with associated site work. The project is within the Riverfront Area.

No testimony was taken. At the request of the applicant's representative, a motion was made and seconded to continue the public hearing on this application to June 27 at 5:40 PM. All in favor.

**New Business:**

Tisbury Great Pond/ Edgartown Great Pond Foundation project: Emily Reddington is the Director of Science and Education for the Edgartown Great Pond Foundation (EGPF) and Sheri Caseau is the Water Resource Planner at the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC).

Since February 2016, Emily and Sheri have been working to coordinate water quality sampling in Edgartown Great Pond. EGPF is a non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining the health of Edgartown Great Pond through science, research and education. A large part of their mission is operating the dredge that is used to keep Edgartown Great Pond open.

Emily spoke at length about the water quality testing protocol used by the foundation.

Emily explained that she and Sheri were hoping to collaborate on a project in Tisbury Great Pond with funding from the Vineyard Vision Fellowship Project this year, but weather conditions did not cooperate. They hoped to present a proposal to the board this evening.

Sheri spoke about 2017 testing in James Pond and Tisbury Great Pond for July and August. She said she would like to expand sampling throughout the seasons, but at the moment, that is not possible.

James Pond will be sampled every week in July and August for water quality testing temperature, salinity and conductivity beginning this week. Nutrient sampling will be done every two weeks through September. This sampling is being done with Dick Johnson as part for the herring assessment.

The Nature Conservancy is paying for Dick Johnson's time through their contract with Biodiversity Works. The MVC is paying for the cost of processing the samples out of a technical assistance grant that is not part of the Town's MVC budget.

With respect to Tisbury Great Pond, Sheri said Kent Healy has offered to take her out to collect samples beginning in July.

In addition, the Buzzard's Bay Coalition has given the MVC a grant to pay for an MVC intern's time.

The MVC is partnering with SMAST on testing the sampling. This lab is state certified and did the testing for the MA Estuaries Project.

Sheri explained that there had been a problem with turnaround time on the data reporting from SMAST. Under the new contract SMAST is required to have the nutrient data report to the MVC in October or November.

Sheri said she and Emily are partnering with different 5 different labs to test the samples. The labs include Green Biological Lab, the Wampanoag Environmental Laboratory, SMAST, and the Division of Marine Fisheries Lab. Because of varying detection limits of the different labs they said they will be able to compare the data.

Maria asked Sheri about water quality reports from 2000-2006 on the MVC website. Sheri replied that the reports are there but the site is not easy to use.

Sheri said because the lab was slow getting data back she has been behind in issuing reports. Maria asked her to provide the reports for 2014 to date. No action was taken.

### **Old Business:**

**Administrative Review/Location of Mill Pond Plaque:** The location of the boulder/plaque will be slightly closer to the road. No action taken.

**Map 3 Lot 91/Lambert's Cove Path fence:** The Parks & Recreation Committee would like to replace the section of snow fencing at the top of the beach path with a split rail fence. After a brief discussion it was determined that this would not be a good idea because a split rail fence will not keep people and dogs out of the dune and it will not catch windblown sand. Beach grass was planted in this area and it may not have come up this year or may just be covered in sand so we want to continue to protect this area.

Also a split rail fence has greater potential to become firewood. The temporary metal frames and rope should be replaced with a new row of snow fencing with wooden posts.

It was suggested that the old fencing be taken out and replaced with a new row of fencing, or a new row put behind the existing fencing.

Maria will let Park and Rec know that a split rail fence is not an option.

Map 39 Lot 7/SE79-354: Maria updated the board on the work to start restoration of the buffer zone areas at 208 Middle Point Road. Tom Della Rocco is getting ready to plant the approved vegetation into the coir logs and the disturbed areas.

In an email dated June 8, 2017 Seth Wilkinson recommended that Tom be allowed to use the same native salt-tolerant seed mix which was specified for the coastal bank at 234 Middle Point Road in the disturbed buffer zone areas at the Pease property. Also, he recommended a hydro mulch seed mix to help the seed mix grow and help the plant propagules.

Maria said that Seth told her this seed mix will not contribute to creating a lawn.

Mike said he did not think this would impede the huckleberry from coming back.

Maria will get more information on the composition of the seed mix. Otherwise the board was ok with this.

**Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Opportunity:** Members briefly discussed this new grant opportunity. Members will review the grant opportunity summary and will be discussed at the next meeting. Maria will get more information from Tim Chorey at the Division of Ecological Restoration. The application deadline is July 11. No action was taken.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland  
Board Administrator  
APPROVED