

WEST TISBURY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES March 6, 2017, 5:30 PM

PRESENT: Ginny Jones, Bea Phear, Leah Smith, Matt Merry, Henry Geller.

ABSENT: Susan Silva

ALSO PRESENT: Adam Moore, Kristen Fauteux, John Christiansen, Julie Mitchel Christiansen, Cathy and Mike Minkiewicz, Jane Rossi.

Ginny opened the meeting at 5:30.

Public hearing on a Site Plan Review application from Sheriff's Meadow Foundation to remove a portion of a stone wall to install 4 parking spaces on the property located at 468 Indian Hill Road, Map 12, Lot 9:

Ginny read the public hearing notice and explained the voting process. Kristen Fauteux displayed a plan and pointed out that the legal access to the lot is limited. She said that currently, people who walk the trails on the property are parking on the road and it is interfering with the school busses. There is one live oak tree that will need to be removed and a portion of a stone wall. Kristen said they may put in vegetative screening if people want it. The stone wall is the boundary line. Ginny said it appears that a tree has already been removed. She suggested that the Tree Warden be reminded that any tree removal along the roads should be reviewed by the Planning Board prior to any cutting.

Ginny asked about the Sheriff's Meadow property across the road. She wondered why the parking area couldn't go there. Kristen explained that the topography of the property was too steep and would not work as a parking area. There is also a utility ditch there.

John Christiansen asked how wide the opening to the parking area would be and Kristen said it would be around 12 feet wide. Ginny asked if there is another way to get in if an emergency vehicle needed to. Kristen said there was a space from the old Hough Road. John C. asked Kristen if it was a surprise that a parking lot was needed. He wanted to know why they hadn't installed one initially. Kristen said that Sheriff's Meadow did put in the trails and decided later that the parking area was necessary.

Julie Christiansen said she recognizes the need for the parking area, however, when the idea was first proposed, she was told there wouldn't be a curb cut on Norton Circle. She said that the abutter, Brian O'Brien, would not grant access through his property. He then put up a stone wall. She said she objected to his approach and to any desecration of stone walls. She pointed out that the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation mission statement stress on preservation and stone walls are an integral part of our history. Kristen explained that a portion of the stone wall will be removed, not the whole thing. She stated that much of the wall has fallen. She felt that Mr. O'Brien was not intentionally blocking access to the property. Adam said that the Foundation didn't get permission from Mr. O'Brien to go around the wall. They take the stone wall very seriously. Cathy Minkiewicz said that she would like to see the stone wall left as is and not be improved or polished. It may be in disrepair but it is natural. John Christiansen pointed out that some stones have been stolen from various walls. Cathy asked if the stone wall could be left alone.

Leah said that it appeared to her that a bus could go around the cars but they choose not to. Henry asked if perhaps a space could be created on the edge of the road for parking. Julia said they have looked at it with that thought in mind but determined that it wouldn't work. John Christensen suggested that a fence or a

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gate could be placed at the opening to the property. The gate could be closed at the end of the day in case of any problems.

Matt Merry stated that he was having a hard time seeing the negative side of the situation. He asked if it was the stone wall or the parking area that people were having trouble with. Julia said it is the breakdown of the stone wall that bothers her. Matt said the stones would be placed back into the wall. He said he felt a 12 foot wide break in the wall didn't seem too huge. Cathy said "we have a community of around 5 year round families. We have maintained trails. Suddenly we are feeling a bit muscled by this kind of disruption to our front yard. It is emotional as much as anything else." Matt stated that we should be thankful that these areas are being preserved.

In related discussion, Julia mentioned that Sam Stevenson was upset about the project. Adam stated that Sam did not appear to be upset when he spoke with him. Ginny said that the actual break in the stone wall didn't upset her as much as the building of the new wall. She said she would like to find out where the road layout is. Matt suggested that vegetative screening might be nice to shield the parked cars from view.

Bea said that she is personally sympathetic to the discomfort with change. She motioned to approve the plan and Leah seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Jane explained the decision process and appeal period to Kristen.

The board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

MINUTES:

Bea moved and Leah seconded the motion to approve the February 13, 2017 minutes. The vote was unanimous with an abstention from Matt.

All Island Planning Board Meeting:

Ginny reported to the board that she attended the AIPB meeting last week and it was very long. She said they discussed the Housing Production Plan at length, and she reported to the AIPB members about the newly formed Housing Committee, a sub-committee to the Planning Board. She said they discussed the idea of purchasing houses that are near demolition to be used to create affordable housing. The topic of refuse came up. Ginny said she felt that was a Board of Health issue.

David Foster Book:

Ginny announced that David Foster will speak on March 13th at 6:30 at the Ag Hall on his book, the 1850's map and some other topics. She suggested that the board member's attend the forum.

Manter's Path:

Ginny reported that the proposed designation of Manter's Path as a special way will not appear on the annual Warrant at the recommendation of Town Counsel.

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Meeting Adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Rossi, Administrator