2023Annual Report

To the Board of Select Board:

In 2023, things in the West Tisbury Town Hall are back to normal. We are still meeting via zoom.

In 2023, Donna Paulnock resigned from the Commission. We were sorry to lose her. Ernie Thomas has replaced her. Also, Chris Lyons has joined the Commission as an Associate Member. Welcome to you both.

Individual members continued their roles as appointees to other committees. Peter Rodegast serves as the Commission’s appointee to the West Tisbury Land Bank Advisory Board and Ernie Thomas has replaced Angela Luckey as the Commission’s appointee to Anthe Community Preservation Committee. Angela continues to serve on Mill Brook Watershed Management Committee.

In our work to administer the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act and the Town’s local wetlands bylaw, the following determinations of jurisdiction and permits (called Orders of Condition) were issued for projects in or near inland wetlands and coastal resource areas.

**Administrative Review:** None

**Determinations:**

Map 1 Lot 16/ septic system replacement

Map 6 Lot 2/determination of intermittent stream

Map 13 Lot 8.1/public trail at Cedar Tree Neck

Map 36 Lot 24/ porch addition

Map 43 Lot 10/ tree clearing

**Orders of Conditions**

Map 1 Lot 17/SE79-453/ demolition of existing single-family dwelling and construction of same

Map 3 Lot 14/SE79-455/ construction of a two-car garage

Map 3 Lot 49/SE79 454 / Construction of a new house

Map 6 Lots 6, 72 and 7.4/SE79-454/ reconstruction of revetment and extension/ pending

Map 11 Lot 44/SE79 demolition of existing of single-family dwelling and construction of same

Map 23 Lots 3.1 and 3.2/SE79-425/ removal of overhead utilities and burial of same

Map 23 Lots 4, 5, and 9/SE removal of overhead utilities and burial of same

Map 35 Lot 6.7 /WTCC23-001/swimming pool

Map 35 Lot 7 /SE79-448/demolition of existing single-family dwelling and construction of same, guest house and pool

Map 38 Lot 7. 1/SE79-449/demolition of existing single-family dwelling and construction of existing barn

Map 39 Lots 7 & 8/ SE 79-466/ House, garage, pool

Map 43 Lot 13/ SE79-447/ demolition of a single-family dwelling and construction of same

**Amended Orders of Conditions:** None

**Appeals:** Map 6 Lot 2/ Superseding Determination of Applicability granted by DEP

**Enforcement Orders: Map 15 Lot 1/ 274 Indian Hill Road**

**Extension Permits**: None

**Certificates of Compliance:**

Map 3 Lot 49/ SE House never built/

Map 7 Lot 130/SE79-426/ Drive ay

Maps 8 & 10/ Lots 22.12, 22.14, 194.2, 165SE79-304

Map 12 Lot 5.12/SE79-313/construction of a studio

Map 35 Lot 1.10/SE79-252

Map 36 Lot 18/SE79-416/ demolition, new construction, landscaping

Map 38 Lot 2/WT2021-02/ construction of new house, guest house and pool

Map 39 Lot 9/SE79-428/ renovations, SE79-431/ plunge pool and 2nd story addition and SE79-459 septic system upgrade

**Water Withdrawal Bylaw Permits:** None

The second mission of a conservation commission spelled out in the enabling legislation for conservation commissions in Massachusetts is the development and protection of natural resources and the projects that protect the watershed resources of the town.

**Ongoing projects:**

**Map 3 Lot 91/Lambert’s Cove Beach path monitoring**: As always, thanks to Reid Silva and the staff of Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering for continuing to monitor the elevation of the dune over which the path to Lambert’s Cove Beach crosses.

**James Pond:** The board continued to work with Johnny Hoy, the Herring Warden, and the Division of Marine Fisheries, to monitor a project to improve a herring run at James Pond. The Buzzards Bay Coalition and local land owners are pursuing a project to improve the outlet to James Pond. The MVC continues its work on monitoring water quality in James Pond. Any updates Whit?

**Wetlands Protection Bylaw Regulations:** The board has been working to create revisions to the Buffer Zone section of the bylaw regulations and a new section covering view channels. This work is ongoing.

**Conservation Restrictions**: There were no new conservation restrictions approved in 2023.

**Conservation Land Management:** The Commission also conducted monitoring site visits and addressed issues on properties covered by agricultural and conservation restrictions that are held by the Town and/or third-party conservation groups.

**Brandy Brow**: The Commission continues to monitor the condition of Brandy Brow and relies on the help of the Highway Department with mowing and fence mending. In 2023 2 post and 7 rails were replaced in the split rail fence. The path that crosses Brandy Brow has many exposed roots as it runs along the West Tisbury Road. Signs will be posted alerting folks to the tripping hazards the roots can cause. Tim Boland of Polly Hill Arboretum is planning to do some tree planting in 2024? .

**Map 18 Lot 1/Margaret K. Littlefield Greenlands**: The Land Bank continues to maintain the walking paths at Greenlands for the Town. This year, the Commission voted to ban electric bikes in Greenlands. Signs will be posted.

**Agricultural Preservation Restrictions:** Martha’s Vineyard Agricultural Society **(**Map 25 Lot 1.1). The town under the care of this board is a co-holder of the APR with Vineyard Conservation Society. Members participated in the review and approval process for events at this property.

The Commission office also fielded numerous calls concerning jurisdiction over a variety of projects in the Buffer Zone and monitored the progress of ongoing construction projects.

The Commission will continue to hear applications under the Wetlands Protection Act and the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw during regular meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 5:00 P.M. As of this writing, the Commission is still meeting via Zoom. We are waiting for legislation to be handed down from the Commonwealth as to the criteria for holding public meetings. By the time you read this report we may be meeting at town hall again.

Whit Griswold, Chair

Peter Rodegast, Vice Chair

Fred Barron, Member

Geraldine Brooks, Member

Angela Luckey, Member

Ernie Thomas, Member

Michael Turnell, Member

Maria McFarland, Board Administrator