

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 24, 2020

Present: John Brannen, Geraldine Brooks, Whit Griswold, Donna Paulnock, Brian Beall, Binnie Ravitch, Peter Rodegast, and Tara Whiting-Wells

Absent: Michael Turnell

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also, present for all or part of the meeting: Reid Silva

Whit Griswold, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M. The meeting was held remotely via Zoom.com.

Donna and Brian will vote as needed in the absence of a quorum.

Minutes: Approval of the minutes of the March 10 meeting was tabled to the next meeting.

Continued Public Hearings:

Map 35 Lot 7/SE79-421: 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 Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Peter and Rachel Sorrentino for a project located at 71 Carl's Way. The project consists of the creation of a 3' wide brush cut path and the construction of a 54'L x 3'W elevated boardwalk through a bordering vegetated wetland and saltmarsh, and an 80'L x 3'W seasonal pier consisting of a 56' pier, an 8' ramp, and 16' float.

Members eligible to vote on this matter are Whit, Peter, Tara, and Donna. Members were able to view an updated project plan dated March 24 on line while discussing the revisions.

Reid explained that the plan now shows the proper profile but still does not specify the height off the bottom for the floats stops because the final location has yet to be determined. He has recommended 24" but until it is determined if there are shellfish beds in the location of the dock the height of the floats above the bottom can't be finalized. Reid noted that on this application, DMF recommended 30 "and on Wexler they recommended 18".

At the last meeting, Ray Gale agreed to go out in the town shellfish boat to look at the proposed location. Maria recounted her conversation with Ray Gale after this site visit. Ray told her the original proposed location is too gravelly and the water depth is not great. He was not exactly sure where the second location is but he suggested a location further north closer to the Hearn dock. Reid said he had the same conversation with Ray and added that Ray would like to bring Commission members out in the shellfish department boat to see the location he would recommend.

Reid said he will arrange to meet with Ray on site to determine the best location and then members can do a site visit with Ray by boat. Given the uncertainty of the situation, it is unclear when site visits can be done.

The other revision to the project plan is an area marked with symbolic fencing between wetland flag numbers 18 and 19 that will be marked by bounds and allowed to grow back. Maria pointed out that the area of the proposed path between wetland flag numbers 20 and 21 should also be marked and allowed to grow back.

Commissioner's Comments/ Questions:

Geraldine said she would like stakes placed in the field to represent the height of the boardwalk because she is concerned about the visual impact of a boardwalk 4'5" off the grade. Maria noted that the height of a boardwalk was determined by DMF as necessary to avoid impacts to salt marsh and bordering vegetated wetland.

Geraldine also asked whether the alternatives discussed at the last meeting was investigated. Tara replied that the height of the boardwalk would create too high a drop to the beach so the idea of just a boardwalk was abandoned.

Peter asked if there was a significant difference between 24' and 30" for the collar stops. The purpose is to keep the floats and any boats tied to the float from bottoming out and causing turbidity and impacts to shellfish habitat.

Peter asked whether the relocation of the dock to the north would impede any ones rights with respect to the easement. Reid replied that he would have to sort this issue out.

With consent from the applicant's representative a motion was made and seconded to continue the public hearing to April 21 at 5: 10 PM. Whit, Peter, Tara, and Donna voted in favor of the continuance.

Map 35 Lot 1.2/SE79-413: 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 Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Lewis and Sherri Wexler for a project located at 122 Pond View Farm Road. The project consists of the relocation of a seasonal dock to a location 56 feet from the southerly lot line. The seasonal dock consists of a 3'x 4' elevated pad affixed to the bank by two steel pipes, a 3 x 16' ramp and two (2) 4'x16'floats. Binnie, Peter, Tara, and Whit will vote on this matter.

Reid asked for a continuance because a landscape plan could not be prepared in time for the meeting. He explained that he spoke to Mrs. Wexler regarding the need to get some erosion control measures in place, but did not know if it had happened. Maria said she could go over to the property.

Commissioner's Comments/Questions:

Tara asked Reid what could be done to get them to address the erosion issue. Reid replied that he forwarded the site visit pictures to the property owner but has not heard back.

Johan and Geraldine are not eligible to vote on this application. With the consent of the applicant's representative, a motion was made and seconded to continue the public hearing on this application to April 21 at 5:30 PM. All in favor.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss.

Old Business:

Map 39 Lot 2.1/ SE79/392/ 147 Middle Point Road: Maria reported on a site visit she had with John Huff, owner of Oak Leaf Landscaping to see the limbing and pruning work done for the view channels. Within the northern view channel, a minor amount of limbing extended to the top of the coastal bank and

the shrub layer had been pruned below the 5 foot height allowed under the Order of Conditions. The reduction was not egregious.

Maria was instructed to send a letter to the owner with a copy to the landscaper reminding them of the requirements of the permit and that no pruning can take place for two years.

Map 5 Lot 1/SE79-401/ Cedar Tree Neck parking area changes: Peter recused himself from voting on this matter. Maria read Kristen Gaegan's letter dated March 12 for the record. Members were able to review the proposed revisions to the plan prepared by Kristen Reimann, landscape architect on line.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the creation of a fifth parking space which will be designated as employee parking, a reconfiguration of a two car parking area for the caretaker's house and a reduction in the size of the front porch by 160 square feet. All in favor.

Tiah's Cove Culvert Replacement Grant application: Maria reported that she and Jen are also ready to file the application. The deadline for filing this application has been extended to April 15.

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 5: 52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator