

**Town of West Tisbury
FY 2022 Budget Request Submission**

Submitted by (Department/Committee): Conservation Commission

Name of Person Submitting Maria McFarland

Date Approved by Department/Commission: December 8, 2020

Narrative:

Please give a brief narrative explaining any significant changes to your department/committee expected to occur in FY 2022 and the budgetary impact of them. This should include any changes to revenues (fees and grants).that will offset the net cost to the town. Especially note any proposed changes to your department or committee staffing.

The town's share of filing fees collected under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act must be maintained in a separate line item and may not be turned over to the General Fund. Filing fees were down during the first two quarters of 2020 because of the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the last couple of months permitting work as begun to increase.

At the 2007 annual town meeting voters approved the creation of a revolving account as set forth in M. G. L. Ch. 44 Sec 53E1/2 for the filing fees collected under the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw. These fees are to be used only for administering the local bylaw and may not be commingled with the fees received under the state Wetlands Protection Act or placed in the General Fund.

The Conservation Commission does not expect any significant changes to the department during FY 2022.

Describe any major accomplishments or information on the activities of your department/committee that would be helpful to the Selectmen and Finance Committee. (Feel free to do as separate attachment)

For a list of the activities of the Conservation Commission, please see a copy of the calendar year 2019 Annual Report attached to this submission.

2019 Annual Report
To The Board of Selectmen:

In February, Prudy Burt resigned after 22 years of dedicated work on behalf of the Town. Her diligence, institutional memory, and thorough assessment of applications will be missed. Geraldine Brooks took Prudy's seat on the Commission. Other changes in membership include the appointment of Brian Beall and Donna Paulnock as Associate Members and voting alternates. Having Associate Members provides residents with an opportunity to learn about the functions of the commission and eventually become full members with from a more knowledgeable position.

Individual members also give of their time and talents to the community by serving as appointees to other committees. Peter Rodegast continues to serve as the Commission's appointee to the West Tisbury Land Bank Advisory Board and John Brannen as the Commission's appointee to the Community Preservation Committee. Binnie Ravitch is in the third year of her term as an elected member of the Land Bank. Starting in 2020 Brian Beall will participate in a new subcommittee appointed by the Board of Selectmen charged with implementation of the recommendations in the Mill Brook Watershed Study. Donna Paulnock will serve on the Climate Change 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. The Commission is also charged with managing Town owned conservation land and participates in the review of Conservation Restrictions between landowners and conservation groups.

Administrative Reviews

- Map 5 Lot 1 (removal of hazardous tree)
- Map 5 Lot 1 (gutters and foundation work)
- Map 11 Lot 36 (repair of well house roof)
- Map 15 Lot 6 (removal of several hazardous trees)
- Map 32 Lot 31 (removal of a single dead tree)

Determinations: Maps 38 & 39 Lots 1, 1.1.2 & 14 (installation of utilities)

Orders of Conditions

- Map 3 Lot 7/SE79-411 (house renovations & septic system upgrade)
- Map 3 Lot 9.11/SE79-400 (house)
- Map 3 Lot 49/SE79-393 (house, well & septic system)
- Map 3 Lot 85.4/SE79-398 (pool)
- Map 5 Lot 1/SE79-401 (renovations, storage shed/bathroom & site work)
- Map 5 Lot 2.1 and 2.3/SE79-399 (septic system upgrade)
- Map 5 Lot 2.3/ SE79-408 (demolish and reconstruct existing seasonal cottage)
- Map 5 Lot 3/SE79-397 (public trail and foot bridge)

Map 6 Lot 7/SE79-410 (new stonewall)
Map 6 Lot 8/SE79-402 (septic system upgrade)
Map 12 Lot 13/SE79-396 (restoration of stone walls & pasture areas)
Map 14 Lot 2/SE79-409 (septic system upgrade)
Map 15 Lot1/SE79-395 (relocation and expansion of existing house)
Map 15 Lot 10/SE79-407 (addition to a single family dwelling)
Map 32 Lot 31/SE79-405 (septic system)
Map 35 Lot 3.1/SE79-403 (installation of underground utilities)
Map 35 Lot 6.15/SE79-390 (house, guest house, garage, septic system, well & pool)
Map 35 Lot 9/SE79-389 (tree work)
Map 35 Lot 9 /SE79-394 (grading & landscaping)
Map 38 Lots 7.7 & 7.8/SE79-406 (demolish existing camp, new house, guest house, garage & pool)
Map 39 Lot 2.1/SE79-392 (house, guest house, pool view channels & beach stairs)
Map 39 Lot 14/SE79-404 (house, guest house, garage, & pool)

Amended Orders of Conditions: Map 12 Lot 13/SE79-371 (additional restoration of pasture areas and stonewalls)

Enforcement Orders: None

Extension Permits: Map 1 Lots 26, 28 & 29/SE79-370 (tree work)

Certificates of Compliance

Map 1 Lot 50/SE79-358 (house, pool and site work)
Map 3 Lot 49/SE-244 (house never built)
Map 3 Lot 85.4/SE79-34 (house)
Map 6 Lot 8/SE79-402 (septic system upgrade)
Map 6 Lot 14.1/ SE79-63- (house and restoration of unauthorized work)
SE 79-73 (Invasive species work)
SE79-108 (work on dam)
SE79-109 (invasive species removal)
MAP 12 Lots 72 & 72.1/SE79-9 (man-made pond)
Map 32 Lot 97/ SE79-327(Library renovations)
Maps 36, 42 & 43 Lots, 28, 1, & 8/SE79-151(prescribed burns)
Maps 36 & 42 Lots 28 &1/SE79-267(Phragmites removal)
Map 41 Lot 1/SE79-282 (reconstruction of duck blinds)
Maps 36, 42 & 43 Lots-18, 1 &8/SE79-299/Prescribed burns/

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: Thanks to Reid Silva and the staff of Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering for continuing to monitor the elevation of the dune 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. See the Herring Warden report by Johnny Hoy for more detail.

Water Resources Protection Bylaw: The board was successful in an effort to adopt a town bylaw restricting the removal of water from surface water sources in town. This bylaw stems from recommendations outlined in the Mill Brook Watershed Study report and Recommendations issued in 2018. The board held two public hearing on the proposal and incorporated public input into the language of the bylaw.

Tisbury Great Pond

At this time last year, the report on the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for nitrogen levels in Tisbury Great Pond was being reviewed by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In July the EPA approved the TMDL report. In collaboration with the Martha's Vineyard Commission we are working with Chilmark on developing a plan of projects that will serve to accomplish the goal of reducing nitrogen levels to the level acceptable under this report.

The board participated in the review process of an Environmental Impact Notice on a proposal to dredge Tiah's Cove by a homeowner. The purpose of the review was to determine if enough information was provided by the applicant for the state to determine what permits were needed. The department determined that the proposed project required the preparation of a full Environmental Impact Statement.

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 agencies. The Commission heard presentations from Sheriff's Meadow Foundation and Vineyard Conservation Society and endorsed approval of projects on properties with conservation restrictions.

Brandy Brow: The Highway Department has taken over responsibility for mowing Brandy Brow. We hope people are enjoying the daffodils (courtesy of the Garden Club and volunteers) every spring and making use of the path over the Brow for safe walking to the center of town.

Map 18 Lot 1/Margaret K. Littlefield Greenlands: The Land Bank continues to maintain the walking paths at Greenlands for the Town.

Agricultural Preservation Restrictions: Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society (Map 25 Lot 1.1) approval of various activities as a co-holder of the APR with Vineyard Conservation Society.

Conservation Restrictions: Map 6 Lot 2.1/Approval of Amended and Restated Conservation Restriction to increase the protected land from 3.58 acres to 12.09 acres.

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. Our meetings are held in the Selectmen's meeting room on the second floor of Town Hall and are open to all. Please join us and gain a better understanding of our areas of responsibility and how we protect our community's natural resources.

Tara Whiting-Wells, Chair
Whit Griswold, Vice-Chair
Geraldine Brooks
John Brannen
Michael Turnell
Binnie Ravitch
Peter Rodegast
Brian Beall, Associate Member
Donna Paulnock, Associate Member
Maria McFarland, Board Administrator