

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 24, 2019

Present: Brian Beall, John Brannen, Geraldine Brooks, Whit Griswold, Donna Paulnock, Michael Turnell, and Tara Whiting-Wells

Absent: Binnie Ravitch and Peter Rodegast

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Stephanie Roache

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 P.M. Tara Whiting-Wells, Chairman presiding.

Minutes: The minutes of the September 10 meeting were approved as revised.

New Business:

Map 1 Lots 26, 28 and 29/SE79-370/ 40 Norton Farm Road/Request to Extend Order of Conditions: Stephanie Roach was present to represent Paul Weiss, owner of 40 Norton Farm Road. Mr. Weiss submitted a letter dated September 12, 2019 requesting a one-year extension of the Order of Conditions. The project consists of removing 13 trees within a bordering vegetated wetland, 5 trees in the buffer zone and pruning 2 trees in the buffer in order to re-establish a view channel. The work is on property owned by Nancy Hammond (92 Norton Farm Road) with access over the Marshall property (68 Norton Farm Road). The conditions of the permit were reviewed. No conditions of the original permit will change.

A motion made and seconded to approve a one year extension to October 3, 2020. All in favor.

Old Business:

Lambert's Cove Beach Path Boardwalk: Geraldine called the board's attention to the use of plastic zip ties to hold the boardwalk together. Geraldine said she has been periodically picking up broken zip ties. Originally, the boardwalk was held together with bolts. Pictures from a September 19 site visit show that sections of the boardwalk are coming apart. The plastic is problematic for wildlife and shore birds and the condition of the boardwalk in general is hazardous.

Tara suggested that the board send Park and Recreation a letter requesting that zip ties not be used and that the boardwalk be better maintained over the course of the season. Members agreed.

Also, Maria will arrange a site visit with Greg Berman of the Woods Hole Sea Grant to look at next steps for winter fencing.

Administrative:

Classification and Compensation Study: Members were given copies of the job description for the Board Administrator's position. The town is in the process of reviewing the classification and compensation of jobs in town. Tara has signed off on the revisions suggested by the Human Resources Services, Inc, the consultant conducting the study. No action was taken.

Water Withdrawal Bylaw/Application and regulations: Members reviewed a draft application and made suggestions such as adding a link the bylaw on the town website and adding a paragraph describing the purpose of the permit.

Revisions to Buffer Zone Regulations: Members discussed current procedures for reviewing and approving view channels. It was agreed that the board needs to have a written policy or regulations rather than relying on past practice. At a meeting in December 2018, members had a working meeting on this subject and were given examples of regulations/policies of other towns. Maria will circulate these examples again. Members will review and discuss at a future meeting. No action was taken.

Site Visit Day: Tara asked board members if they would agree to change site visit day because she will not be available on Thursdays for the foreseeable future. It was agreed that beginning October 16, site visits will be on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 1:30.

Correspondence:

In: Map 1 Lots 26, 28, and 29: Letter dated September 12, 2019

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED