

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
January 25, 2022

The meeting was held via Zoom in accordance with the Governor's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A sec.20. Public participation will be via remote participation (Zoom) pursuant to M. G. L. Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021.

Present: Fred Barron, Geraldine Brooks, Whit Griswold, Donna Paulnock, and Michael Turnell

Absent: Angela Luckey and Peter Rodegast

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Anthony Cordray

Whit Griswold called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

Minutes:

- The minutes of the November 29 meeting were approved as revised. Roll Call Vote: Donna-aye, Geraldine – aye, Michael-aye, Peter-aye, and Whit– aye. Fred abstained.
- The minutes of the January 11, 2022 meeting were approved as revised. Roll Call Vote: Donna-aye, Geraldine – aye, Michael-aye, Peter-aye, and Whit– aye. Fred abstained.

Continued Public Hearing:

Map 1 Lot 15/SE79-TBD: a public hearing under the requirements of G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended, and the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn, Inc., on behalf of Judith Meredith Alman-Bernstein, Trustee of the 17 Chowder Kettle Lane Realty Trust, for a project to install a swimming pool, pool fence and perform associated site work within the Buffer Zone to Isolated Land Subject to Flooding. The project location is 101 Capawock Road. At the request of the applicant, a motion was made by Michael, seconded by Angela to continue the hearing on this matter to February 8, 2022 at 5:30 PM. No testimony was taken. Roll Call Vote: Donna- aye, Fred -aye, Geraldine – aye, Michael -aye, and Whit -aye.

New Business:

Informal Discussion with Tony Cordray Animal Control Officer/Report on Farm inspections:

Members met with Tony to discuss the conditions he and Omar Johnson, Board of Health Agent, found at Runamuck Farm owned by Brian Athearn, Blackwater Brook Farm owned by Alan Cottle and Deb Farber, and the property owned by Kathryn Leonard-Peck. All three locations are within the Riverfront Area under the Wetlands Protection Act and the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw.

At Blackwater Brook Farm, Tony observed cows within the Buffer Zone to the Blackwater Brook and an oil-like sheen on the west side of the barn approximately 30 feet from the brook. On the east side of the barn there was a large pile of manure. He also observed a fence that runs through the wetland to the brook.

At Runamuck Farm there are 4 sheep in a paddock next to the Brook. Mr. Athearn told Tony, and has previously told the board that he is planning to stop keeping livestock at this property.

According to Tony, the situation at the Leonard-Peck property is the worst of the three farms. By his count there are 15 goats, 25 chickens and 28 water fowl with access to the brook . The brook runs

through the goats' paddock. The farm hand told Tony he "uses a power washer on the ground to keep the ticks down". Consequently, manure is directed towards the brook.

The board discussed the previous letters sent to Brian Athearn and Cottles and the letter regarding water quality sampling results sent to all three parties.

Access to the Leonard-Peck property is very problematic. Tony said he would take some pictures the next time he is there.

It was agreed that Whit would reach out to Alan Cottle. Maria will reach out to DEP for guidance ,and Tony will take some pictures at his next site visit to Leonard-Peck. Maria will also work on a draft of a letter to Leonard- Peck (and if Whit's conversation with Alan Cottle is unsuccessful) to both.

Map 25 Lot 1.1/ Ag Society/ Annual Review of Schedule of Events: Members reviewed the proposed schedule of events to be held at the Ag Hall during 2022. Whit asked the members to approve a memo that he and Brendan O Neill of Vineyard Conservation Society wrote stating that the co-grantees of the APR share the position that, were the Farmer's Market to become a permanent activity at the Ag Hall property, the significant increased intensity-of-use of the property would run counter to the intent of the APR. After discussion, a motion was made by Michael, seconded by Donna to sign off on the proposed "2022 Martha's Agricultural Society's schedule of anticipated event dates for building use" (undated) and the to approve the memo to Jen Rand Town Administrator regarding permanently moving the Farmers Market to the Ag Hall, as written. Roll Call Vote: Donna-aye, Fred -aye, Geraldine – aye, Michael-aye, Peter-aye, and Whit– aye.

Administrative:

FY 2023 Revolving Fund warrant Article:

A motion was made by Michael, seconded by Fred, to submit the annual warrant article asking Town Meeting that authorizes the expenditure of Bylaw filing fees to pay the expenses of the Commission related to the administration of the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw. Roll Call Vote: Donna-aye, Fred- aye, Geraldine – aye, , Michael -aye, and Whit -aye.

Map 12 Lot 33/SE79-396/ 371 Indian Hill Road/ Restoration of pasture areas/ Certificate of Compliance: A motion was made by Geraldine, seconded by Fred to approve the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance for this project. Roll Call Vote: Donna-aye, Fred-aye, Geraldine – aye, Michael-aye, Peter-aye, and Whit– aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED
FEBRUARY 8, 2022