

WEST TISBURY  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
November 17, 2020

**Present:** John Brannen, Geraldine Brooks, Whit Griswold, Angela Luckey, Donna Paulnock, Michael Turnell, and Tara Whiting-Wells

**Absent:** Binnie Ravitch and, Peter Rodegast

**Staff Present:** Maria McFarland

**Present for all or part of the meeting:** Peggy Stone

Whit Griswold called the meeting to order at 5:03P.M. 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.

Members welcomed Angela Luckey to the board as an associate member.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the October 27 meeting were approved as revised. Roll Call Vote: Binnie, Geraldine, John, Michael, Tara, and Whit voted in favor.

**Public Hearings:** No public hearings were held.

**New Business:**

**Map 3 Lot 90 & 90/ Lambert's Cove Beach:** The Commission met informally with Peggy Stone, the Parks & Recreation Committee Board Administrator regarding a possible project at Lambert's Cove beach. The proposal calls for the placement of 300 yards (800 linear feet) of wooden posts and 1.5" marine grade rope to serve as a handrail along the boardwalk to the beach, continuing along the toe of the dune. The post and rope will serve as symbolic fencing to keep people out of the dunes.

Park & Rec has filed an application with the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) seeking \$30,000 to cover the cost of materials and labor. The project has to be approved by Town Meeting and put out to bid.

Maria said the project could probably be approved under a Request for Determination of Applicability unless Natural Heritage and Endangered Species would object or put conditions on this project. The property is within Estimated and Priority Habitat. Maria offered to have a conversation with NHESP to determine what paperwork they would need to approve this project.

Geraldine asked how effective the post and rope will be to deter people from going into the dunes. Peggy said it would be more of a deterrent than what is there now. Maria added that it would be good to get rid of the metal posts, and at least visually, it will provide more of a barrier.

John, the Commission's appointee to the CPC committee said that the CPC is looking for some indication that this board will approve the project. Maria suggested that John tell the CPC that this is a project the board has encouraged in the past and that it is a permissible project subject to review by NHESP.

Park and Rec has already obtained a letter of approval from Sheriff's Meadow (holder of the Conservation Restriction on the path and the town parcel adjacent to the beach). No action was taken.

On another matter related to the boardwalk at Lambert's Cove beach, Geraldine asked Peggy if there was anything that could be done about the use of plastic ties to keep the boardwalk sections together. Peggy

explained that the Highway Department uses the ties instead of the screws designed to be used to make it easier to assemble the boardwalk. She acknowledged that the ties break apart and get spread over the path and beach. Peggy was encouraged to stop using the plastic ties. She was encouraged to go back to using the screws to assemble the boardwalk.

**MVRHS/ Athletic Field:** Members discussed the pros and cons of sending a letter to the MVC stating their opposition to the proposal to install an artificial turf field at the Regional High School. Given the potential environmental hazards of these types of fields, the board determined it was appropriate to submit a letter in opposition to the project to the MVC.

Maria said she checked the list of correspondence on the MVC website for this project that has been submitted so far, and did not see any letters from municipalities. The board administrator of the OB Con Comm told Maria that her board would not comment on this project.

Geraldine will draft a letter for review and approval by the board at the next meeting. In the meantime, Maria will find out when the public record for written comments closes.

**Map 25 Lot 1.1/Ag Hall:** Serving Hands will be running a distribution of food at the Ag Hall on November 22 beginning at 1:00PM. Vineyard Conservation Society and the Board of Health have approved this event. There will be a police detail present to direct traffic. No action was taken.

**Tisbury Great Pond:** There was an informal discussion about exploring working with the Great Pond Foundation on Tisbury Great Pond. Whit suggested meeting with Emily Reddington and Chris MacIssac. They will be invited to the December 8 meeting.

Maria encouraged the Board to attend the next meeting of the Up Island Ponds Committee to discuss the \$200,000 grant the MVC just received from DEP to create a 208 Equivalency Plan to develop and implement required mitigation of water quality issues.

**James Pond:** Whit reported on his efforts to assemble a group of people interested in working to improve water quality in James Pond. The group has raised \$30,000 to hire the Woods Hole Group to conduct a study on the inlet at James Pond.

## **Old Business**

**Invasive Species removal/Pear Tree Cove/ Tisbury Great Pond:** Maria reported that Keith Gazeille of Solitude Lake Management would submit a proposal for a hand-pulling project the Parrot Feather (*Myriophyllum aquaticum*) in time for the December 8 meeting.

## **Administrative:**

**Bylaw regulations revisions:** Tabled to the next meeting.

**Conservation Commission Charter:** Whit and John have been looking at ways to expand the Commission's role in matters pertaining to the natural resources of the town and the island. John circulated some research he did on language included in the mission statement/ bylaws of other conservation commissions. John said he thinks the board has an opportunity to have a broader role and should never be wary of weighing in on environmental issues.

John and Whit would like to organize a joint meeting that includes the Planning, Board of Health, Zoning, and the commission to meet and share ideas and concerns about environmental matters, regulatory

overlap, and other issues of concern to these town boards. Whit will reach out to the chairs of these boards to see if they are interested.

**Correspondence:**

**In:** Emails regarding Flu Clinic staging at Ag Hall  
Monitoring Report for Map 1 Lot 50/ SE79-270

**Out:** State Forest/ Letter to NHESP

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland  
Board Administrator  
APPROVED  
DECEMBER 8, 2020