

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
November 8, 2023

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, Whit Griswold, Angela Luckey (arrived at 5:20PM),Chris Lyons, Peter Rodegast, Ernie Thomas and Michael Turnell

Absent: Geraldine Brooks

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Chris Cottrell, Becky Cournoyer, Brandon Faneuf, Kris Horiuchi, and Rebekah Thompson

Whit Griswold called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

Minutes: A motion was made by Peter, seconded by Fred to approve the minutes of the July 25,2023 meeting as corrected. Roll Call Vote: Whit-aye, Fred-Aye, Peter-aye, Mike-aye, and Ernie-aye.

A motion was made by Peter, seconded by Fred to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2023 meeting as corrected. Roll Call Vote: Whit-aye, Fred-Aye, Peter-aye, Mike-aye, and Ernie-aye.

There were no public hearings this evening.

New Business:

Map 1 Lot 14/ 86 Capawock Road: Maria reported that Joe Tierney alerted her to some clearing near a pond on this property. She explained that the Commission has dealt with this property before going back to 2013. The current owner who bought the property in 2015 is currently out of the country. Maria spoke to Geoghan Coogan, the owner's attorney, and was able to get the owner's email address. According to Geoghan, the owner didn't ask the landscaper to do the amount of clearing that was done.

Whit commented that the owner's lawyer acknowledged that the work was done in error so a letter is appropriate telling them not to let this happen again. He would like the letter sent to the landscaper as well.

A motion was made and seconded to send a letter. Roll Call Vote: Whit-aye, Fred-Aye, Peter-aye, Mike-aye, and Ernie-aye.

Old Business

Map 43 Lot 1/SE79-436/100 Watcha Club Road: Per the Order of Conditions, the property owner was required to bring a plan showing the final view channel from the pool house once the pool house was built. At the last meeting, the Commission approved doing a phased approach to

creating the view channel. The first phase consisting of clearing within the limit of work fencing has been completed. A second site visit was done on November 7 to look at approximately 13 trees Kris Horiuchi, the landscape architect, has flagged between the limit of work fencing and the boundary of the No-Disturbance Zone.

After discussion, a motion was made by Ernie, seconded by Fred, to allow the flagged trees and up to 20 saplings to be cleared and for limbing of trees up to 10 feet. No trees to be cut that are within the No-Disturbance Zone. Roll call: Fred-aye, Whit-aye, Peter-aye, Michael-aye, Fred-aye, and Angela-aye.

Map 15 Lot 1 274 Indian Hill Rd/ Enforcement Order/ Restoration Plan

Members reviewed the restoration plan submitted by Chris Cottrell's landscaper, Travis Thurber of Breezy Pines Landscape.

Chris Cottrell told the members that he was willing to start doing the restoration work as soon as the board authorizes it.

Whit explained that the neighbors are not satisfied with the extent of this restoration plan. The neighbors appealed the Enforcement Order in an attempt to get DEP to review the delineation. Whit went on to say that the board will take up the balance of proposed work on December 12, the date the public hearing on the Notice of Intent was continued to a couple of meetings ago. The board continued that hearing because the board wants to see the restoration work done before they deal with the NOI. Whit hoped the landscaper could get the work done before December 12.

Whit asked Brandon Faneuf to explain the restoration plan.

Brandon said he didn't put the plan together but was happy to explain it. The first part of the plan is to remove the portion of the dirt driveway that leads to the garden area. All road material will be removed and replaced with topsoil and the area replanted with native plants, shrubs and trees consistent with the surrounding area. Chris would like to relocate the driveway outside the Buffer Zone to continue to have access to the back of his property so they will restore the part that's in the Buffer Zone, and then create a new driveway that hugs the stonewall at the property line.

After that is done, they will work on restoration of the disturbed areas within a hundred feet of that isolated wetland which includes the mulched area. The mulch and woodchips will be removed. The drainage pipe, filter fabric and wood chips will be removed.

Also, Chris will move the existing shed to a spot outside the Buffer Zone. The garden area will be ripped up and graded to be brought back to original ground. They will be reseed the area around the shed where the wood chips are.

Brandon went on to list the native plants to be brought in or transplanted from outside the Buffer Zone including native highbush blueberry, cinnamon fern, winterberry, bayberry, brambles sweet pepperbush and maple. The plan includes transplanting some native plants, trees, and shrubs from outside the Buffer Zone.

Brandon concluded by saying that he personally likes the idea of using plants and trees on site because those plants are already adapted to that area. They're not cultivars. The ones from the nurseries tend to be specifically bred to have larger showy flowers or fruit and they might not necessarily bloom during the time that the native species does which messes up the pollinators.

A lengthy discussion with Rebekah Thompson, one of the neighbors, centered on whether the Commission is going to use the 2108 delineation or the 2023 delineation and what the letter from DEP means.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the restoration plan as presented based on the 2023 delineation. Planting and transplanting of vegetation will be postponed until the spring. The applicant will have their landscaper submit the quantities and sizes of plants to be planted or transplanted. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call Vote: Whit – aye, Peter-aye, Mike-aye, Ernie-aye, and Angela- aye. Fred abstained.

Administrative:

FY2025 Budget: Tabled to the next meeting.

Community Preservation Committee: Angela asked if anyone would be willing to replace her as the Commission's appointee to this board. Ernie said he would think about it. Tabled to the next meeting.

There being no new business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED
NOVEMBER 28,2023