

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 8, 2021

Present: Geraldine Brooks, Whit Griswold, Angela Luckey, Donna Paulnock, and Peter Rodegast

Absent: John Brannon and Michael Turnell

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

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

Minutes: The minutes of the May 11, 2021 meeting were approved as written. Roll Call Vote: Angela, Donna, Peter, and Whit voted in favor. Geraldine arrived after the vote was taken.

New Business:

Map 25 lot 1.1/Agricultural Society/ Pinewood Derby: The Ag Society has obtained permission from the Building Inspector and Vineyard Conservation Society (VCS) to hold the Pinewood Derby on June 13 at the Hg Hall. There will be 2 groups of about 12 kids with their families. This event was moved from the Chilmark Community Center in 2020 because of the pandemic.

Maria read an email from Brendan O'Neill of VCS which states that "this kind of community/ education activity for a civic group, similar to ones historically pursued, aligns with the intent of the APR. It is also limited in nature, low intensity, occurs during daylight hours, and provides enjoyment to residents of Martha's Vineyard."

The board did not take a formal vote to approve this event, but all said they were in favor of it except Geraldine. Geraldine asked that the record reflect that she is opposed to this event taking place at the Ag Hall again as it is not an agricultural related event, and represents a continuation of the expansion of the schedule at the Ag Hall of events not directly related to agriculture that were allowed to be held at this site in 2020 because of the pandemic. [After the meeting it was learned that the reason it can't move back to the Chilmark Community Center this year because it is still being used by the Chilmark School.]

Airport Capital Improvement Plan/ Final Environmental Impact Report/ Notice of Project

Changes: The board commented on the original Environmental Impact Report in 2019. Members will review the documentation regarding the project changes and prepared comments to the boards 2019 letter for the next meeting.

Members generally agreed that capital improvements for operational safety is one thing, but work for commercial activity is another. Whit asked who says the airport needs capital improvements. Geraldine said there is money available and that they are going after it. Whit said he isn't sympathetic to capital improvements project just because there are federal dollars available.

Geraldine said that upon her initial review of the final report there are a number of concerns particularly with respect to the alteration of Priority Habitat. Peter noted that comments should be directed at aspects of the plan that a commission would be concerned with such as impacts to Priority Habitat, and not whether members have an opinion about the need to expand the terminal or add new runways. While people may have personal objections, the Commission should only comment on matters that are within the board's purview; otherwise the board loses some effectiveness.

Geraldine and Whit will work on the draft of a letter in response to the project changes for review and approval.

Old Business:

Map 7 Lot 28 /Cottles/Blackwater Brook Farm: Maria reported on a telephone conversation she had with Amy Cottle Look. Mrs. Look said she would speak to her brother Alan about the need to bring their mother's property into compliance by taking steps to move the cows out of the wetland and away from the brook. She said she would call Schofield, Barbini & Hoehn about getting the wetlands delineated. No action was taken.

Map 7 Lot 28.2/ Johnson/driveway: Members discussed their observations from the May 20 site visit meeting with Mr. Johnson. At the site visit, Mr. Johnson reiterated what he said in his letter; that in 1983, the Commission determined there are no wetlands on his property.

Whit said it was obvious from the site conditions that there are wetland plants present (cinnamon fern, sensitive fern, sweet pepper bush, high bush blueberries, common winter berry, pink azaleas, silver maple and American Beech trees) in the location of the driveway as well as a culvert and standing water.

Whit suggested a follow up letter stating that because there is no record of this meeting and no file on this property so the wetlands should be delineated.

Peter said so much has been done out there in the last 30 years it might make it difficult to reclaim the wetland if there was one. He suggested a follow up letter could inform them that no new work is allowed until the wetlands are delineated and proper procedures followed.

Geraldine said it should be put on the record that there is no record. Apparent wetlands, standing water and are culvert were observed. The driveway may have been constructed in a wetland which would be a violation.

Maria was instructed to a draft a letter explaining that there is no record of a 1980's site visit, that the 2021 site visit raised more questions about whether the area was/is a wetland and that more information on the purpose of the culvert would be helpful. Any future work will require a wetland delineation and the appropriate paperwork.

Map 3 Lot 72/ Cottle's Lumberyard: Peter forwarded a picture he took on March 24 that shows a fair amount of trash along the brook. Maria showed members new aerial images taken on April 9, 2021 that shows that, at least on April 9, most of the product that was being stored behind the buildings has been removed.

Geraldine mentioned that the fencing still needs to be replaced. Whit said he would still like to see them look at constructing some type of berm to stop snow being plowed into the brook in this location. Peter added that the pavement could be sloped back toward the drain. We still don't have confirmation that the stormwater management system was constructed in accordance with the 1990 plan. No action was indicated.

Map 3 Lot 91/ Path at Lambert's Cove Beach: Members were sent an email from the DEP Circuit Rider in response to questions posed by staff regarding the past practice of allowing the use of an excavator on the dune to move sand without a permit from this board as a matter of public safety. The answer from DEP was no. A permit is required.

Maria updated the board on the status of the new hand rail. The bid documents for a new post and rope hand rail have not been finalized. Peggy informed Maria today that they won't be able to do anything about the slope of the dune this year.

Whit asked what type of rope was being used. He said that polypropylene is not a good choice because it doesn't wear well in the sun. Maria will pass along this concern. Maria said she was asked about a few of the specs such as pressure treated wood and gravel around the post; neither of which the board would approve. Maria will try to assist the Town Administrator and Park and Rec staff with specs used for this type of project in other towns.

Administrative:

CPC appointment: A motion was made and seconded to reappoint John Brannen to the Community Preservation Commission per the requirements of the CPC Bylaw: Roll Call Vote: Angela, Donna, Peter, and Whit voted in favor.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED
JUNE 22, 2021