

DRAFT

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
May 12, 2020

Present: John Brannen, Geraldine Brooks, Whit Griswold, Donna Paulnock, Brian Beall, Binnie Ravitch, Peter Rodegast, and Tara Whiting-Wells

Absent: Michael Turnell

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also, present for all or part of the meeting: Kristina West

Whit Griswold, called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M. This meeting was held remotely via Zoom.com in accordance with the Order Suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c.30A sec.20.

Donna and Brian will vote as needed in the absence of a quorum.

All votes will be taken by roll call vote.

Minutes: The minutes of the April 21 meeting were approved with revisions. All in favor.

Continued Public Hearings:

Map 35 Lot 7/SE79-421: a public hearing under the requirements of G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended, and West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc., on behalf of Peter and Rachel Sorrentino for a project located at 71 Carl's Way. The project consists of the creation of a 3' wide brush cut path and the construction of a 54'L x 3'W elevated boardwalk through a bordering vegetated wetland and saltmarsh, and an 80'L x 3'W seasonal pier consisting of a 56' pier, an 8' ramp, and 16' float. Members eligible to vote on this matter are Whit, Peter, Tara, and Donna.

A site visit will be scheduled before May 26 if possible.

Due to restrictions on gatherings during the COVID-19 pandemic, a site visit has not been possible. With consent from the applicant's representative, a motion was made and seconded to continue the public hearing to May 26 at 5:10 PM. Peter – aye, Whit – aye, -Donna – aye and Tara- aye. Motion carried.

New Business:

Map 25 Lot 1.1/Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society: Kristina West, Executive Director of MVAS.

Kristina West, Executive Director of the Agricultural Society outlined each of the events.

Serving Hands This is a food distribution organization that usually works out of Grace Church in Vineyard Haven to provide food to people in need. In the last two months, the demand has increased. They are now distributing food from locations in Edgartown, Vineyard Haven, and West Tisbury. The first food distribution in West Tisbury, done in the Library parking lot, created traffic problems. The Police Department required them to find a new location. A test run was done at the Ag Hall property three weeks ago and it went well. The event will be held every other Friday for 2-3 hours until demand eases. The BOS approved the event on May 15. Kristina said she spoke to the abutter most impacted, Woody Bowman and he was ok with it.

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Traffic will use the short road from the bend in the Pan Handle up to the Hal in order to keep cars off State Road. Janes Fair Way could be opened if needed.

Peter asked if the elementary school parking lot was considered. Kristina answered that the school is distributing lunches at noon there would be overlap.

Farmers Market: The Summer Farmers Market will start June 13. The BOH has determined that the Grange property is not big enough to observe social distancing guidelines. This is a temporary arrangement for this year.

Maria asked if a special permit was need from the ZBA. Kristina said there is a difference of opinion as to whether one is needed. Kristina said she has forwarded the opinion of the Society's counsel to Jen and Joe. Joe is seeking access to Town Counsel for clarification.

Shellfish and Mushroom Give away: Not formally scheduled yet. The event would be set up with tables and sandwich boards Cars will drive up place and pick up order, and leave. This will occur before the Saturday market opens in June.

Oyster Giveaway: An anonymous donor purchased a 300-bag oyster harvest to be given away free on Saturday May 16. Cars will come on the Panhandle and exiting on State Road.

John asked how many events have been canceled this summer. The hockey banquet was canceled and five weddings all of which will most likely be canceled.

High School Graduation: Board received the initial proposal. Kristina will submit a more detailed plan from the High School that she received today. The High School would like to have some sort of drive in with certain speakers on stage. She will forward the updated plan. The event will be held either June 28 or July 26 depending on state guidelines. No action will be taken on this tonight.

Whit noted that these events have already been approved Approval from Selectmen and thanked Kristina

Tara asked if the Board was going to vote on these events in their capacity as a co-holder with the Vineyard Conservation Society. Kristina explained that they view VCS as the arbiter of these on these matters per the language of the APR. Only approval is need is from VCS.

Tara said the board should be consistent and on all matters related to the Ag Society as the co-holder regardless of whether the BOS and VCS have already approved an event.

Tara made a motion to approve these events with the exception of the high school graduation plan) with a condition that the Farmers' Market receives any other state or local permits needed. Roll Call: vote all in favor.

Map 3 Lot 9.14/Abbott: Maria updated the board on clearing on this property in the proximity of a wetland on this property. Maria has spoken to the owner and will follow up with him. No action was taken.

Old Business:

Climate Change Committee: Members reviewed a letter drafted by Maria and Donna in response to the January 12 letter from Kate Warner. Maria has already incorporated changes submitted by Peter.

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Approval of the letter was tabled to the May 26 meeting to allow members to submit edits. No action was taken.

Administrative:

FY2021 Expense Budget reductions: Maria informed the board that there would not be a cost of living/wage adjustment for FY2021. The operating budget is set at \$3,350. Members reviewed each line item. The board would like to see a fiscal year to date accounting before deciding where to make temporary cuts. Action on this matter was tabled to the next meeting.

In: Emails from Kristina West and Brendan O’Neil regarding events at Ag Society during COVID-19
Map 3 Lot 2.1 email transmitting plan and report from Cooper Environmental Services
Out: Map 35 Lot 1.2/SE79-413/Order of Conditions/Wexler

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 6: 00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator