

WEST TISBURY
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 23, 2018

Present: John Brannen, Whit Griswold, Binnie Ravitch, Peter Rodegast, and Tara Whiting

Absent: Prudy Burt and Michael Turnell

Staff Present: Maria McFarland

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Sheri Caseau

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 P.M. Tara Whiting, Chairman presiding. The minutes of the October 9 meeting were approved as revised. Whit abstained. There were no public hearings.

New Business:

Map 25 Lot 1.1/Martha's Vineyard Agricultural Society: Tara informed the Board that there will be a meeting with the Agricultural Society, Vineyard Conservation Society and the Board of Selectmen sometime in November to discuss the Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR), the various legal opinions and the zoning regulations that apply to this parcel. This property is in the Rural (RU) district. The RU district allows agricultural, residential and religious uses, but not commercial uses. There is a concern that the Ag Society has been doing too many events, such as the recent MV Food and Wine Festival dinner, that are commercial in nature.

Also, a question has come up as to whether the co-holders of the APR should be signing off on one-day beer and wine licenses being granted by the Board of Selectmen for events being held at the Ag Hall. No action was taken.

Old Business:

Tisbury Great Pond 2017 revised draft report: The board met with Sheri Caseau to review her final draft of the water quality testing report for 2017.

The members were pleased to learn that Sheri is working on a one page summary of the 2017 data. The summary sheet will include pond opening dates, sampling dates and other salient details. She said that working with the board has really helped her.

John asked Sheri if she could break the data out by the 4 testing dates rather than averaging it out. Sheri replied that the report gives both the total for each site and the average. She noted that MEP uses the average.

John then asked if Sheri had any preliminary or anecdotal findings from her sampling this year.

Sheri was able to conduct all the planned sampling this summer. The pond was much clearer this year than last. There was one algae bloom in Deep Bottom Cove in early spring where ground water enters the cove. She and Kent have talked about putting a well in Deep Bottom Cove to see if they can figure out how much nitrogen Red Pony horse farm is contributing to the pond. Tara described the steps the Board of Health has taken recently to try and rectify this situation.

Sheri added that the Deep Bottom Home Owners Association asked if they could fertilize the field where the horses pasture around the man-made pond. The MCV said they could not.

Sheri told the board that due to weather conditions and Chris McIssac's availability, the September sampling took place on Oct 3. Sheri will send an invoice for the cost of testing to the office for payment.

Sheri said she is hoping to get the data back from SMAST for the 2018 sampling season next month. John asked if we have any sense of when we will hear back from the State on the TMDL report. Maria will check with Patti Kellogg on where the TMDL report stands. Sheri added that she sent Patti Kellogg a copy of Bill Wilcox's report.

Tara reminded Sheri that the Board is concerned with getting consistent data on the four sentinel sites (Pear Tree, Tiah's and Deep Bottom Coves, and the main basin of TGP), identified in the MEP and TMDL reports. Sheri said she understands that but that she thinks it is necessary to sample in Town Cove because of conditions there.

Finally, Sheri plans to do another sampling in October after the pond is opened. The TMDL/MEP calls for sampling 12 days after a pond opening. This sampling will be paid for from a grant the MVC has received. She is also sampling in Chilmark and Edgartown to get baseline data for an opening study. No action was taken.

Water Withdrawal Bylaw: Tara reported that the Board of Selectmen is reviewing the draft the board prepared. Maria gave members a copy of the bylaw approved by the Town of Rochester in 2016. No action was taken.

Watershed Study/ Community Preservation Act (CPA) application: Tara informed the board that she, Prudy and Bill Wilcox met with Cindy Mitchell to work on the CPA application. On Bill's recommendation, the amount of funding to be requested was revised from \$30,000 to \$40,000 to cover the cost of hiring a consultant to do a dissolved oxygen study. No action was taken.

Correspondence:

Out: Map 39 Lot 13/ SE79-356/Pil/ Certificate of Compliance/ House
Map 32 lots 89 & 88/ SE 79 353/ Barron-Murphy/ Certificate of Compliance House and meadow restoration
Map 32 Lot 89/ SE79-351/ Barron- Murphy/ Certificate of Compliance/ Phragmites Project

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 5:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED