

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 11 July 2018

Members present: Peter Vincent – Chairman, Lil Province, Geoffrey Kontje, Jeffrey Carlson, Bob Avakian, and Christina Brown

Absent: Stuart Lollis

Staff: Jane Varkonda, Lisa Morrison

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Goodman *Preliminary determination* to install seasonal float, Garden Cove. (Former Huck Look property) Kate Devane from Donaroma's was present for the applicant. Ms. Devane said that her clients have 4 or 5 kayaks that they are dragging up and down the bank all the time, which is contributing to erosion on the bank. Ms. Devane asked if the board would consider permitting a small 4-foot by 6-foot float so that her clients could just leave their kayaks in the water.

Vincent asked if the float would use Styrofoam for flotation. Ms. Devane said that was the usual design for these types of floats. Vincent said that the Dredge Committee had just had a presentation about the dangers of Styrofoam in the marine environment. Devane said that they would be more than willing to alter the design.

Kontje asked what would happen to the float in the off season. Would equipment be needed to transport the float to an upland location? Devane said that it could probably be handled by a couple of guys.

Brown asked if there were any floats in Garden Cove now. Ms. Devane said that she did not know of any.

Vincent commented that over the years the Commission has taken a very protective stance against piers and floats in the Great Ponds. Allowing this float would likely set up a situation where everyone would be applying for one.

Brown agreed and said that a float is essentially a floating pier.

The agent asked if kayak racks had been explored. She noted that they are not allowed on the beach, but could be located at the top of the bank if screened from the pond.

After some brief discussion, it became apparent that no one on the board was in favor of allowing the float.

McCourt Doug Hoehn and Kris Horiuchi were present to discuss possible violations on the main house property. The agent had explained that the Commission does not usually allow for additional work if there are violations on the property. The applicants had come in initially to discuss revisions to the landscape plan and building footprint on the guest house. At a site visit, violations to the landscape plan of main house were discovered. Native beach vegetation had been replaced with manicured lawn.

The agent suggested that Mr. McCourt remove the elements in the landscape plan that are not compliant. In order to insure that the work is completed, the Commission may require the posting of a performance bond.

Ms. Horiuchi outlined the changes from the landscape plan approved in August of 2005. The items that need to be removed, such as the sod lawn, the expansion of hardscape (terrace), and vegetable gardens have been outlined in red.

The board agreed to allow the reconfigured path as shown on the plan. Vegetation adjacent to the pool will be replaced with native plantings. Temporary irrigation was approved.

Province made a motion to allow the restoration around the main house to proceed. Avakian seconded the motion. Ms. Varkonda said that she got an estimate of \$54,000 to accomplish the restoration, as well as an additional 20% for administration costs and a legal document that would allow the Commission to enter the property to accomplish the work, should that become necessary.

Ms. Horiuchi asked if the amendments to the guest house could proceed as well. Vincent suggested that the board vote on the proposed amendments at the next meeting, July 25th.

Ms. Horiuchi reminded the board that the amendment for the guest house includes the fact that the footprint of the existing guest house is slightly different from what was approved in 2010. Overall, the footprint of 'things that touch the ground' - including decks and walkways - is actually less than what was originally approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

A request from the **MV Museum** for \$10,500 to cover exterior painting and rebuilding of stairs was denied. The maintenance agreement with the town clearly states that annual painting, both interior and exterior, is the museum's responsibility. Vincent suggested that the museum send the bill to the Harborview or apply for funds from the CPC.

Fisherman's Landing. The agent reported that the Henderson family is upset about the amount of people using the beach. [See agent's notes.] The agent has contacted the Highway Department to install an additional post so that a chain can be installed.

Farm Institute. The agent reported that the FI would like to use an herbicide to control multiflora rose and spotted knapweed. The agent consulted with the USDA and Seth Wilkinson and came to the conclusion that mechanical removal would be preferable in this case. She had further recommendations for the FI including working with the USDA and the Trustees to secure grants to keep the invasive vegetation out of the fields. [See agent's notes.]

The agent said that she hopes now that the FI has a farmer on staff, they plan on bringing back some of the animals.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Approved: _____