

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 24 October 2018

Members present: Peter Vincent – Chairman, Stuart Lollis, Bob Avakian, Lil Province, Jeff Carlson, Geoffrey Kontje

Absent: Christina Brown

Staff: Morrison, Varkonda

Public Hearings:

STAFFORD – NOI for view channel reconfiguration, path lighting, and related site work - 21 Boldwater. Reid Silva was present for the applicant. The applicant is seeking approval to rotate the two view channels to match what has been cleared on site. Overall the view channels have been reduced in size from the original approval. The applicants are also proposing to shrink the existing lawn to the permitted maximum of 2500 sq. ft. by converting a portion of it to meadow. Applicant will submit a narrative that will include a list of plants in the beds around the house as well as a seeding mix and rate for the proposed meadow.

The agent noted that the existing stairs looked fine.

The only landscape lighting requested is for path lighting as shown on the plan. Fixtures will be dark-sky compliant and fully shielded to shine downwards.

Fergus Henderson, treasurer for the Boldwater Residents Association was present for the Boldwater Architectural Review Committee, who has approved the project. Mr. Henderson said that the areas outside the newly rotated view channels be allowed to grow back and not trimmed or otherwise modified. He noted that the Stafford house stands out from the pond fairly dramatically.

The agent commented that there had been a fire on the site, and attempts at replanting the vegetation have not been successful.

Kontje asked what would be in the planting beds. Silva said that they would have only native vegetation. After some further discussion, Province made a motion to approve the project as presented with the above conditions. Avakian seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

PARK DEPARTMENT Request for a determination to install a waterline to the Left Fork bathhouse. Jane Varkonda, member of the Park Department, made the presentation. She noted that the Edgartown Water Department will be doing all the work. The water will not be potable – it will be used primarily to wash off equipment. Avakian made a motion to issue a negative determination of applicability. Lollis seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

BALDER - NOI for the installation of a swimming pool & equipment shed, 24 Navy Way. George Sourati was present for the applicant. An order of conditions was issued four or five years ago for the construction of a house and pool. The pool was never built and the order expired. The applicant is now proposing a smaller, shallower pool in approximately the same location. The project also needs a special permit from the Planning Board.

The pool will be no deeper than 6-feet and will be constructed 1.2-feet above seasonal high ground water. The only lighting will be the required pool lights in the pool. A final landscape plan will be submitted at the completion of construction.

The agent noted that Sheriff's Meadow is an abutter and that she has spoken with Adam Moore, Executive Director, who is okay with the project.

Kontje made a motion to approve the project as presented and with standard conditions. Avakian seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Conditions to include the installation of a dry well or leaching pit to handle any pool drainage.

PWF BOATHOUSE TRUST (Alexander-Gammill). Request to modify order of conditions to allow for additional landscape lighting and solar panels. [Landscape lighting was reviewed and approved at the previous meeting]. Kris Horiuchi was present to discuss the additional solar panels.

Ms. Horiuchi noted that the panels that will be used are LG brand state-of-the-art panels. They are designed to minimize solar glare. They are thin, matte black on black, with a sleek profile.

All the panels will be roof mounted; there will be no ground array. The panels will follow the pitch of the existing roofs; they will not be cantilevered above the roofs. The roofs will all be made of cedar shingles.

Kontje made a motion to approve the modification as requested. Avakian seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

TTOR Russ Hopping, Ecology Program Director, Caitlin Borck, and Mike Wittemore from TNC were present to discuss a proposal to update the management of sandplain grasslands at the farm and the airpark. The Trustees received a \$28,000 grant for this purpose from the state.

The Trustees and TNC would like to improve the sandplain ecology by reducing fragmentation, controlling invasive plants, and planting warm-season grasses. They would also like to remove portions of the existing hedgerows that separate the farm from the airpark. (See section 1: Habitat Improvement at Katama Plains of the grant proposal).

Hopping explained that the six-acre control area labeled 'A' on the plan and adjacent to the airpark is starting to sprout woody vegetation. They would like to restore this area to sandplain grassland. It is not in the flight path and will not affect airpark operations.

In the section labeled 'B' Approximately 1900-feet of hedgerow abutting the airpark will be removed. In section 'C', old soil piles will be removed or spread out and debris removed.

After speaking with the highway superintendent, the proposal to remove 3350 feet of hedgerow adjacent to Katama Road was deleted from the plan. [Shown on plan as section 'E'.]

In section 'D' the plan is to augment existing agricultural grassland with native grass species, such as little bluestem.

Outside of 'D' no changes to the fields are proposed other than getting rid of invasives. Some kind of knapweed is beginning to spread. The animals do not eat

it and it is difficult to manage without using herbicides. The goal is to improve the fields for sustainable long term grazing.

Vincent commented that the property was purchased by the town to be a farm. He said he wanted to be sure that this project would not impede farming on the property. Vincent said that, if the proposal is accepted, he would like a signed statement that the work will not interfere with operations at the farm or at the airfield.

Hopping said that they have been unable to find a local source of little bluestem. Carlos Montoya is not able to supply the amount they would need. The closest source is eastern Long Island, which has an ecology similar to the Vineyard. They are hoping to put down 16 pounds per acre.

Hopping said that the proposal is due on October 17th and they need a letter of approval from the Commission to accompany the application. The agent noted that she received a copy on the 5th, and hasn't had much time to review the proposal. [The agent's comments are in an attached email dated 10 October 2018.] The agent said that she would like some confirmation from Natural Heritage that they approve of the proposal.

After some further discussion, Vincent made a motion to endorse the concept of the Trustees' proposal with the understanding that many of the details need to be worked out with the Commission prior to any work beginning on the site, and with the provision that the agent receives a verbal approval from Natural Heritage. Avakian seconded the motion. Province abstained. Motion carries 5-1.

The minutes of 26 September were approved.

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

Approved: _____