

Minutes of a Conservation Commission – 23 June 2021

Members present: Geoff Kontje, Edward Vincent - Chair, Jeff Carlson, Lil Province, Bob Avakian, Christina Brown

Staff: Jane Varkonda, Lisa Morrison

Max Gibbs was present to introduce himself to the board. Max was recommended by Steve Ewing and works at Aquamarine. Carlson commented that the Commission could really use a member with some marine experience and said he thought Mr. Gibbs would be a good choice. Assistant will put a notice in the Gazette and accept letters of interest through 8 July

Public Hearings:

CLEMMY – 185 Katama Road. NOI to maintain and repair existing pier and boathouse, and raise the pier decking to match the boathouse deck. Reid Silva was present for the applicant. The intent is to replace all the pilings and raise certain sections of the pier out of the storm surge: the lower platform will be raised 12-inches and the pier decking between 18- and 24-inches. The end of the pier will be raised 6-inches. After a brief discussion Kontje made a motion to continue the hearing until the next meeting, 14 July, to give Reid a chance to revise the plan. Province seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by roll-call vote. Agent's comments include: removing the white caps on all spiles, refraining from staining any of the decking, and fully shielding the lights on the pier so that they shine only downwards. The agent said she would also need a narrative for how the work will be staged and details on the proposed firepit construction. Also needed is a plan for the kayak rack, which needs to be relocated so it is not so visible.

Kontje asked about the type of wood that will be used in the pier construction and whether it was environmentally certified. Reid said that they are planning on using green heart spiles from Surinam. Silva said that he will do some research before the next meeting.

FELIX NECK – Suzan Bellincampi made the presentation. The project involves constructing a bridge over Turtle Pond and extending the boardwalk 30-feet as well as removing invasives such as honeysuckle and bittersweet that have taken over the trails and overgrown the view channel. The removal of invasive vegetation will take place in the fall and winter.

Brown asked what kind of herbicides will be used and how they will be applied. Bellincampi responded that herbicides are used as a last resort and would be applied by a licensed applicator. Rodeo is most often used on sensitive sites. Complete methodology will be sent to the agent.

There were some questions from the audience regarding the size and type of trees that will be removed. Bellincampi commented that there is an existing ecological management plan for the property that is on file with the Commission and that Felix Neck continues to improve the property and habitat in accordance with that plan.

Brown suggested that Bellincampi tag any trees with a dbh over 4-inches, which can then be reviewed on site by the agent. Kontje made a motion to approve the project as presented. Avakian seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by roll-call vote.

Other Business:

Agent reported that she received a letter from the Lovewells who apologized for cutting vegetation on town land. They also agreed to relocate the kayak rack. The Lovewells look forward to working with the town on a phragmites removal program.

The agent said she spoke with Noah Asimov at the *Gazette* regarding AT&T's plan to remove the silos construct one new pseudo silo, approximately 20-feet higher.

Orders of conditions for Swan Neck Realty Trust, Finn, and McNally were unanimously approved.

The minutes of 9 June were approved by Avakian, Carlson, Brown, and Province. [Kontje and Vincent were absent from the 9 June meeting.]

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved: _____