



Meeting Minutes - Edgartown Conservation Commission
September 28, 2022 (4 pm)
Zoom Meeting: 850 8513 5900

Commissioners present: Peter Vincent (Chair), Max Gibbs, Jeff Carlson, Lil Province, Geoff Kontje, Christina Brown

Commissioners Absent: Robert Avakian

Staff: Jane Varkonda (Agent), Kara Shemeth (Admin)

Public in attendance: Kristy Rose, Kathryn (iPhone), Bill Brine, Cornelia, Lisa Lichtenfels, Roderick Lichtenfels, Dan Athern (MGF), Eric Glasgow (Grey Barn), Jim Athern (MGF), Lindsay Brown (TTOR), Lily Robbins (TTOR), Julie Scott & Melinda (Slough Farm), Darci Schofield (TTOR), Leslie Carter, Tom Tate, John Kett (RH), Beckett "Josh" Kochin

Continued Public Hearing– Notice of Intent **SE20-1658**

Applicant: **The McCourt Martha's Vineyard Trust**

Address: 85 Chappaquiddick Road (AP 30-63)

Action: A vote was taken to continued the hearing to 10/12

Passed unanimously via roll call vote

Continued Public Hearing– Notice of Intent

Applicant: **Martha's Vineyard Land Bank SE20-???**

Address: 28 Litchfield Road (AP 30-233)

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to continue the hearing until 10/26 to allow for the MVLB to meet with Marine Advisory.

Passed unanimously via roll call vote

Discussion items

Farm Updates

Slough: Julie Scott and Melinda from Slough Farm gave an update from the field. 8 pigs TTOR cares for them some of the week and Slough staff helps with TTOR chores on the weekends. The drought affected the grazing and there's

been discussion with Jane regarding installation of irrigation to combat future drought. The Friendship Garden (teaching garden) has been very successful and rewarding and has become a part of the community. They lost some veggies and flowers as the drought affected Katama more than other areas of the island.

TTOR/ FARM Institute: Lindsay Brown (TTOR/ FARM Institute) echoed Julie's reports and spoke of the successful return of tours and programs post-covid. She estimates that 90% of their programs were sold out this summer and that the partnership with Slough Farm and having Morning Glory's animals on site was great. She noted that the TTOR board met at the Farm this summer. Lily Robbins spoke of the success of the camp with over 350 campers and scholarships available for island kids. She noted that the off season has started and they just had their first school group come out, Edgartown Kindergarteners visited the Farm to learn about the life cycle of sunflowers.

MGE: Dan Athern spoke of this problem solving across the farm regarding irrigation in the face of drought. MGF had their cows grazing later into the season which saved the amount of hay that they had to purchase and the barn is proving to be a great place for the animals. They spread organic fertilizer on the land they hayed and lymed several areas and tried planting in some new areas, time will tell if it takes. MGF has 36 animals on the farm including a bull, they hayed 58 round bales of hay and are looking to increase the number of laying hens. Dan noted that he has a year long intern dedicated solely to the care of the animals which will be a big help. There is a need for water in the northern field and they are looking for solutions to create a robust irrigation plan through grants.

There was talk previously by the Stewardship Committee of the center road being in the field being closed to the public, it was determined that closing it is not necessary and it can be revisited in the future if needed.

Grey Barn: Eric Glasglow noted that due to the drought and staff shortages, they were unable to execute plans that they had wanted to implement. He has a potential new employee coming in who will help facilitate some more ambitious activity next year. They were able to get 74 round bales of varying sizes on their leased 40 acres.

Project in the works: permanent cattle fence along the line between the MGF and Educational lease

Pagoda Tree parking

to be discussed with Norman Rankow at the next meeting (10/12) it has been assessed by one arborist and there will be a second opinion coming in soon.

Waldron – Landscaping at 22 Bayside (a site visit from the Harbormaster boat took place earlier in the day)- John Kett shared landscaping plans (on file with Conservation office)

Jane Varkonda noted that they needed to reconcile that the landscaping went from one approved plan to another and what is on the ground is not what was approved.

John Kett showed the current plan and apologized for the divergence from the approved plan and for not coming abc to the commission. They opted to consolidate the trees from the approved number (10) down to two large trees. This is to bring down the scale of the house and their goal is to extend the lower meadow with terraces around the house and open views from the water.

There was further discussion regarding the view channels and John confirmed that they would be leaving tree P2 and would be limbing it up and they were still asking to remove the large oak in view #2.

Geoff Kontje gave a report from today's site visit and noted the house is screened currently and that it was difficult to tell how exposed it would be after proposed trees are removed. The locusts that were planted do not do anything to screen the house. Commissioners asked how exposed the house would be from the South Beach area (the rendering is from straight out on the water). It was noted that the large oak screens the house from the southern side.

Action: a motion was made, and seconded, to continue to 10/26 to review the materials

Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

With nothing further to discuss the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:58 PM