

## Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 1 July 2020

Members present: Peter Vincent – Chairman, Lil Province, Jeff Carlson, Geoff Kontje, Bob Avakian, Christina Brown\*, Stuart Lollis\*

Staff: Jane Varkonda, Lisa Morrison

### PUBLIC HEARINGS:

**Folliard** NOI for the repair/reconstruction of concrete bulkhead with granite blocks, 29 South Water Street. Reid Silva and Norman Rankow were present for the applicant. Mr. Silva said that the concrete on the existing bulkhead is cracking and falling off. They would like to repair the bulkhead using granite blocks, which will be more resistant to damage from freezing and thawing than the existing rebar-reinforced concrete.

The work will be done by barge and a silt curtain will be installed around the entire work area to contain any eroding materials. Soil will be excavated on the landward side of the bulkhead to a depth of about a foot below the existing bulkhead. Excavated materials will be moved off-site by barge. Geotextile fabric will then be placed at the bottom of the excavation and about 12" of gravel will be placed in the trench and compacted.

Existing bulkhead will be removed in 10 to 15 foot segments and replaced by granite blocks/slabs, which will then be backfilled with gravel and, eventually, more filter fabric, topsoil, and native plantings. A silt fence will be installed and remain in place until the area has stabilized.

Vincent asked what was currently behind the bulkhead. Silva replied that it was relatively clean, sandy fill.

Kontje asked how, if the work will be done in 10 to 15 foot sections, the blocks would be staggered to prevent vertical joints. Mr. Rankow replied that the ends will be left 'saw-toothed.' He said that the project is very similar to one done on his adjacent property by Jim Glavin, and it is likely that Glavin will do this one as well.

Kontje made a motion to approve the project as presented with standard conditions. Avakian seconded the motion. Province, Vincent, and Carlson also voted to approve. 5-0.

The agent noted that a violation of a previous order exists on the property relative to fencing and parking adjacent to the pagoda tree. As it is the Commission's policy, the new order will not be released until the matter is resolved.

**Baumann** – RD for the reconstruction of a dwelling on a similar footprint, 24 Litchfield Road.

Ezra Sherman was present for the applicant. Sherman said that because of the sensitive nature of the site, they opted to use the existing foundation, walls, and decks and just add some square footage and change the windows and rooflines. The new structure will be no higher than the existing. The house is designed to recede into the woods. In order to mitigate the larger windows, they are set in three feet from the exterior walls which should keep them from being overly obtrusive.

Kontje asked if the roof would be asphalt or red cedar shingles. Sherman said they had not worked that out yet.

The agent confirmed that the house is not very visible from the pond. She noted that the applicant will need to file a notice of intent to maintain the paths to the water and for any additional landscape maintenance or view channel work.

Kathryn Ryan, an abutter, had some questions about the deck and the distance to the property line.

After some further discussion, Kontje made a motion to issue a negative determination of applicability. Province seconded the motion and also voted to issue a negative determination. Vincent, Carlson, and Avakian voted to issue a negative determination. Unanimous 5-0.

**Blue Heron** (Continuation) NOI to remove existing dwelling and construct new single-family residence, septic system, pool, and related site improvements. Reid Silva, surveyor & engineer, and Ted Rosbeck, applicant, were present. After the previous meeting, the applicants went back to the drawing board and reoriented the house so that it was further away from the wetlands. The garage is now 90 feet from the wetland, instead of 67. They also tucked the pool in closer to the house. Silva noted that the structure is hidden from the public view.

Kontje commented that the new plan is really well done and thanked the applicants for listening to the board's suggestions. Rosbeck said that the new plan actually works better on the site than the previous one.

Province made a motion to approve the project as revised with the standard conditions. Avakian seconded the motion. Vincent, Carlson, and Kontje also voted to issue the order. Unanimous 5-0.

**Goldstein** (Continuation) NOI for new pier, 3 spiles, and float, Caleb's Pond Road. Kara Shemeth was present for the applicant. Hearing was continued for calculations of water depth at the end of the pier, details on lighting, and the electric pedestal. Shellfish constable has stated that there are no shellfish in the area. Shemeth said that they are still awaiting a DEP number as Mark Bartow would like a shellfish study from Paul Bagnall.

Shemeth noted that the number of lights on the pier has been reduced from 10 to 5. She also agreed to either find a different pedestal model with no light, or remove the bulb from the one she has proposed. (Pedestal lights do not conform to the Commission's guidelines for lights on piers, i.e. that they be of low wattage, and fully shielded to shine only downwards).

Shemeth said that the distance between pilings has been changed from 8-feet to 10-feet at DEPs request.

Avakian made a motion to approve the project as presented with the standard pier conditions. Province seconded the motion. Vincent, Kontje, and Carlson also voted to approve. Unanimous 5-0.

#### OTHER BUSINESS:

**Katama Farm** - Proposed events. Lindsay Brown – Engagement Director, Sam Hart – Executive Director, Lily Robbins – Education Coordinator were present to discuss proposed events at the farm for this summer as outlined in the attached narrative. Ms. Brown said that, although there will be no camp this summer, they are attempting to initiate a drop-in program that would involve small family groups of a maximum of 6 to 10 individuals.

The Commission was concerned about the proposal to use the property for drive-in movies and how it would affect the neighbors. The agent pointed out that nights in Katama are often very foggy. Avakian said he didn't think that a drive-in was very 'farm related.' Ms. Brown said that the movies would be both family and farm oriented.

The Commission was more enthusiastic about a farmer's market. Julia Tarka of Rosewater had considered using the Rosewater parking lot as a 'Village Market' but thought that the farm might be more appropriate. Ms. Brown believed that between 12 and 15 vendors could be accommodated with adequate distance between them.

The agent noted that all these proposals would need formal approval from Matt Poole and the Board of Health.

Sam Hart commented that the new farmer has arrived and things are starting to pick up. They have some chickens and pigs in the barnyard and are beginning to lime the fields.

\*[Stuart Lollis and Christina Brown join the meeting]

Vincent proposed that a plaque be commissioned and placed at the Whale Tale Park memorializing sculptor Ovid Ward, who died recently. This was endorsed by all the Commissioners.

Varkonda suggested that a plaque be placed at the recently repaired North Neck stairs in honor of Richard Knight, who also died recently. This too was endorsed by all the Commissioners.

At 5:10 p.m. the Commissioners took a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session to discuss pending real estate matters. They also voted unanimously not to return to regular session at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_