

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Hearing – 27 March 2019

Members present: Peter Vincent – Chairman, Stuart Lollis, Geoffrey Kontje, Lil Province, Christina Brown, and Jeffrey Carlson.

Absent: Bob Avakian

Staff: Jane Varkonda

Public Hearings:

FLAM – NOI for phragmites management, 18 Garden Cove. [Province abstaining] Chris Alley and Seth Wilkinson were present for the applicant. The proposal involves a multi-year program as outlined in the submitted *Phragmites Management Control Protocol*. It includes 3 to 4 years of treatment with a wetlands-approved herbicide, which will be applied to individual cut stems. Kontje asked about possible negative impacts on the environment from the use of herbicides. Wilkinson replied that the chemical binds to the iron in the soil and does not leach into the groundwater. Lollis made a motion to approve the project as presented. Kontje seconded the motion. Unanimously approved by all those voting. Conditions to include: submission of annual monitoring reports to the Commission.

KERNOCHAN - NOI to repair and raise the height of an existing seawall located off Golf Club Road. Jim Glavin was present for the applicant. A foot of sand has been building up in this area and raised the level of the beach adjacent to the wall. The proposal involves building up the revetment to the same height as the existing timber bulkheads on either end of the seawall. Carlson made a motion to continue the hearing to the next meeting, April 17th, and schedule a site visit. Brown seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

LeCOQ – NOI to construct a stone revetment, North Neck Road. Jim Glavin was present for the applicant. Photos of the eroding bank were submitted; the beach stairs have completely collapsed. After some further discussion, Carlson made a motion to continue the hearing to April 17th and schedule a site visit. Province seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

DYROFF - RD to repair an existing windmill, 40 Road to the Gut. Mr. Dyroff explained that the proposal involves repairing the cement base of the windmill. Minimal excavation will be required and there is no vegetation in the immediate area. Dyroff said that he has been in contact with Chris Kennedy of the Trustees who confirmed that there were no nesting birds near the windmill. Province made a motion to issue a negative determination of applicability. Kontje seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

[Vincent leaves meeting]

Continuations:

MV REGENCY (LETTERMAN) NOI to install boardwalks, create footpaths, and manage invasive vegetation - Butler's Cove. A recent site visit revealed that a good deal of the proposed work had already begun. Mike Poirier, property manager, said that he had begun the work on his own initiative and apologized to the board. He said he was just trying to clean up the property.

Seth Wilkinson of Wilkinson Environmental said that the applicant is asking for 5-foot wide paths with 18" of shoulder on each side and to manage invasive vegetation for 15-feet on both sides of the path. Stephanie Pierce from Reed Hildebrand was also present for the applicant.

The agent pointed out that generally the Commission allows unsurfaced paths no wider than 3-feet. Usually they are to provide access to the water. The agent pointed out that the boardwalk on proposed Trail 2 would be clearly visible from the public vista, especially after the phragmites removal is initiated. The proposed boardwalk on Trail 3 is more acceptable as the site is mostly wooded and would not be overly visible from the public vista.

The agent asked why boardwalks were not proposed for portions of the trail that are often wet. Pierce replied that they just won't use the trail when it is wet. Brown asked what was the purpose of the trails. Pierce replied that they will provide access to remove and monitor the invasive vegetation.

Kontje commented that the project seemed to be an unnecessary degradation of valuable habitat and noted that there were other less impactful ways of getting to the water. Pierce replied that the applicants really want to get rid of the invasive vegetation on the property and improve the habitat.

Pierce noted that the applicant is now proposing just to maintain the path labeled 2B (770-feet) and abandon plans for path 2A (390-feet). Boardwalks will be installed using helical anchors. The decking will be at 5-feet 6-inches. High water in the area is usually found at 4-feet.

Lollis commented that the boardwalk will be visible from the pond and asked why the applicants did not choose a shorter, less visible path to the pond. Pierce replied that the applicants like to bird watch, especially in winter. After some further discussion, Kontje made a motion to continue the hearing to the next meeting, April 17th so that the Commission's comments could be conveyed to the applicants.

CARABOOLAD - NOI to create a lawn, plant trees, Pierce Lane. Paul Pertile was present for the applicant. Applicant is to coordinate with the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation on screening the property from the Sheriff's Meadow walking path and planting a buffer between the lawn and the sanctuary property. Applicant may remove two black cherries and a honeysuckle that

straddle the shared property bound with Sheriff's Meadow, but may not cut any pitch pines on Sheriff's Meadow property. Carlson made a motion to issue and order of conditions for the project as presented. Province seconded the motion. Conditions to include adherence to the Edgartown Board of Health's fertilizer regulations.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Approved: _____