

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 8 February 2017

Members present: Peter Vincent – Chairman, Christina Brown, Lil Province, Jeff Carlson, and Geoffrey Kontje

Absent: Stuart Lollis, Bob Avakian

Staff: Jane Varkonda and Lisa Morrison

Brown made a motion to go into executive session with town counsel for the purpose of discussing pending litigation. Brown said that to conduct the meeting in regular session could be detrimental to litigation. Brown also proposed returning to regular session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Carlson seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken.

All members present voted to approve the motion. [It should be noted that Kontje was not present for the beginning of the session, and is not participating in deliberations on this matter as he is an abutter to the Roosevelt property].

Public Hearings:

[Kontje joins meeting]

STRAUCH NOI to replant behind an existing bulkhead - Golf Club Road. Kate Devane from Donaroma's was present for the applicant. Ms. Devane explained that there is significant erosion occurring behind the bulkhead because the soil is washing out from underneath the bulkhead. The area is planted entirely with rosa rugosa that has become infected with galls. The proposal is to excavate and install filter fabric, 2-feet of gravel, top with soil, remove the infected roses and replant with a combination of beach grass, rosa rugosa and bayberry. Ms. Devane said that they have done a test patch and it appeared to control the erosion.

Another part of the proposal is to redistribute the buffer more evenly along the bulkhead. In some areas it is quite wide and in others quite narrow.

The agent suggested that an access route be included on the plan.

After a brief discussion Kontje made a motion to continue the hearing to the next meeting, 22 February, and schedule a site visit. Province seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

WEISS a.k.a. DKJ Trust. NOI to relocate beach stairs and construct revetment, North Neck Road. Richard Barbini was present for the applicant. The existing stairs are dilapidated and the applicant would like to replace them using hand-driven helical anchors.

Mr. Barbini noted that this is the last section of this immediate coastline than can be armored, as all the remaining unarmored properties do not have pre-1978 houses on them. The applicant intends to construct the revetment at the same time as the neighboring properties to the west: Fynbo, Woodger and Bennett. There is no revetment to the east.

[Geoffrey Kontje leaves meeting.]

Mr. Barbini noted that because the bank is so steep in this area, soft solutions do not work. The proposal is to vegetate the bank after the revetment is built. The revetment will be behind the new stairway.

Province made a motion to continue the hearing to the next meeting, 22 February and schedule a site visit. Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

REED Request for determination of applicability to drill between 14 and 25 borings at 41 South Water Street. George Sourati and Sean Murphy were present for the applicant. The purpose of the project is to analyze the soils to determine where the highwater line was 100 years ago. Locating the historic high water mark is necessary in order to determine whether or not a Chapter 91 license is required. Anything below the line requires a Chapter 91 license.

Sourati explained that the drilling machine will access the property from the driveway side and will be driven over mats and plywood. The holes will be between 6 to 8 inches in diameter and will go down to four feet below the water table. The entire area is currently cultivated lawn.

Province made a motion to for a negative determination of applicability. Brown seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Applicant to submit revegetation plan, if necessary.

SEAFOOD SHANTY REALTY TRUST Notice of intent to construct two outdoor second-floor decks. George Sourati and Sean Murphy were present for the applicant.

Sourati explained that the proposal involves no change in footprint as the construction would involve building on top of two existing first floor decks. The additions would be level with existing second floor decks.

Brown suggested that the Commission continue the matter to the next meeting for a site visit and the opportunity to review the Harbor Plan. It was suggested that the applicant put up some story poles so the Commission can determine whether or not public views of the harbor will be affected. Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Other Business:

VINEYARD GOLF CLUB [Jeff Carlson abstaining] Tory Fletcher of Normandeau Associates was present for the applicant. Vincent made it known that he is a member of the Golf Club. There were no objections to his sitting on this hearing.

Kristen Fauteux and Adam Moore of the Sheriff's Meadow Foundation were also present.

Fletcher submitted several maps, which illustrated some irregularities with the conservation restriction (CR). Fletcher explained that there had been some confusion in the staking and a portion of a tee-off area and a drain were mistakenly located in the frost bottom buffer. There are several other areas where incursions have occurred for a total of .27 acres. The club is proposing to do a 3:1 swap and add .91 acres of to the Golf Course Conservation Area as mitigation.

Fletcher noted that the swap has been approved by Natural Heritage, and noted that Sheriff's Meadow would need to amend their CR as well. Sheriff's Meadow is also asking for two public trails.

Mr. Moore noted that this is just an informational meeting to bring the Commission up to speed. A more formal amendment to the CR will be presented to the board at a later date.

A management plan, including a proposal to burn the frost bottom, will also be submitted for the town's approval. Ms. Fauteau commented that frost bottoms are extremely flammable and need to be managed. She acknowledged that some PR and public education will be needed to advance the plan.

The Commission had no objections, in theory, to what was discussed.

KATAMA AIRFIELD Vincent commented that he had volunteered to be a member of the Airfield Stewardship Committee, but another member from the Commission is needed for the hangar subcommittee. After brief discussion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Geoffrey Kontje to the subcommittee.

The Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of 18 January 2017.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Approved: _____