

## Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 22 February 2017

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

Absent: Bob Avakian

Staff: Jane Varkonda & Lisa Morrison

### **Public Hearings:**

STRAUCH NOI to replant behind an existing wooden bulkhead to alleviate erosion – Golf Club Road. Kate Devane from Donaroma's was present for the applicant. A report of the site visit was given. Brown said that she thought it was a good solution to a long-time problem. She noted that there will be no net increase in lawn area – the existing lawn area will be redistributed to even out the narrow area in the middle and decrease it on the sides. Ms. Devane reiterated the plan, which is to dig out a six-foot wide trench that will then be lined with filter fabric, gravel and soil. The area will then be planted primarily with beach grass with pockets of bayberry and, possibly, beach plum. They have decided against using *rosa rugosa* because of concerns about disease and infestation.

Kontje asked if the existing wooden bulkhead was leaning in places. Ms. Devane said that she had not observed that. She commented that engineers from the Woods Hole Group have evaluated the bulkhead and approved the plan structurally.

There were some concerns about demarcating the boundary between buffer and lawn. The agent suggested that a condition be placed on the order stipulating that a border of woody vegetation delineates the lawn from the buffer. She also suggested that there be no irrigation in the buffer zone and that the boundary be flagged on site prior to planting and reviewed by the agent.

It was noted that the path the heavy equipment will take has been noted on the plan. Any disturbance will be replanted and restored. Kontje made a motion to approve the project as presented. Province seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

WEISS/DKJ TRUST NOI to relocate beach stairs, rebuild a beach platform, and construct a revetment. Richard Barbini was present for the applicant. [Vincent abstained as a member of Land Bank, which is an abutter] A letter of opposition was received from the Land Bank. The letter was misplaced, but its contents were summarized by staff: the letter was signed by James Lengyel, Executive Director, and stated that the Land Bank was not in favor of revetments as modern shore science has determined that revetments generalize a local erosion problem by transferring the erosion to a different site along the beach.

Mr. Barbini commented that it is the same letter that the Land Bank always writes when commenting on applications for revetments. He reiterated that the properties to the west of this lot have all been approved for revetments. This one will be put in place at the same time. Mr. Barbini commented that this is the last property along this shoreline that can be armored, unless DEP changes its regulations.

The stairs will be anchored with a helical system, similar to one used on an abutting property. The platform will be rebuilt, but not expanded.

Brown asked how the anchors would be installed. Barbini replied that a specialized handheld piece of equipment will be used.

Brown made a motion to approve the project as presented with standard conditions and provided that there are no lights. Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

### **Other Business:**

[Kontje abstained and did not participate in the discussion or voting]

Brown made a motion to convene in 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 the litigation. Brown also proposed adjourning the meeting after the completion of the executive session as there was no further business before the board.

Carlson seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. All members who voted, voted to approve the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

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