

## Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting - 14 January 2015

Members present: Stuart Lollis, Geoffrey Kontje, Jeff Carlson, Lil Province, Christina Brown

Absent: Bob Avakian, Peter Vincent - Chairman

Staff: Jane Varkonda, Lisa Morrison

GOODMAN NOI to install fencing on top of bluff, Garden Cove. Former Sheriff Look property. Cammie Naylor and Michael Donaroma representing applicant. Geese are overrunning the property and the applicant would like to install a 2-foot high black wire-mesh fence. The fence will be planted with native vegetation to hide the fence and beef-up the buffer zone. The applicant would also like to expand the meadow and cut down on the lawn by 3 to 4 feet. Currently the lawn goes almost right up to the pond edge.

Province asked why the geese wouldn't just fly over the fence. The agent replied that they will just move to a clear area. She noted that geese do not like to walk through brush. The applicants do not want to kill the geese and they have tried decoys, which haven't worked. After some further discussion, the Commission voted to continue the hearing to the next meeting, 28 January, for a site visit.

HOULAHAN Request for a determination of applicability to install split-rail fencing along a property line. Richard Barbini was present for the applicant. The fence line would run approximately 900 feet along the southerly boundary between the Houlahan and the Fink property. The fence is outside of any wetlands and near an existing path. Houlahan has a split-rail fence along the front of his property. Barbini said that the fence would most likely not be visible from the water. A negative determination of applicability was unanimously approved.

Continuations:

HUGHES [Province abstained and left the room] Cammie Naylor and Michael Donaroma were present for the applicant. A site visit report was given. Mr. Donaroma explained that the project involves complying with the old restoration order and initiating some new work for the new owners, the Castles. The Castles would like to have a small boat shed and establish a boat landing so that they have access to the pond. The Hugheses used their neighbors' property for pond access, but this is no longer possible.

The property is part of Herring Creek and, as such, must adhere to the Nature Conservancy's requirement that only native plants be used. The restoration order

mandates the planting of approximately 40 native shrubs – the new plan will involve the planting of approximately 60 shrubs such as clethra, viburnum, and the like. Also proposed is the cleaning up of the bank, which involves cutting back the bull briar and bittersweet, and the adding of sweet pepper bush. The chokecherry will be pruned, but not removed. This work will also open up some view to the pond. The applicant will also remove the stone wall and gardens that were part of the restoration order. All but one path to the water will be revegetated and abandoned.

The boat landing will be established by creating a 1:4 slope in a section of the bank and sodding it with native grasses. A small triangle will be cut out at the top of the bluff to soften the lip. The landing will be used for canoe and kayak access. The applicants have one or two whalers, which will be manually carried down the bank at the beginning and the end of the season.

The proposed boat shed will have no interior plumbing or electricity and will be approximately 210-feet back from the bank. There will be no driving on the boat ramp. A boat trailer will get the whalers as close to the bank as possible, and then the whalers will be carried down the bank.

Lollis made a motion to approve the project in two phases. First the restoration work will be done: the replanting and whatever brushcutting and trimming of invasives is necessary for the replanting. This work will then be inspected by the agent and, if she is satisfied, the second phase of the project – the boat ramp and the boat shed – may proceed. Brown seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

[Province returns to the meeting]

BURGIN Bank stabilization and beach nourishment, North Neck Road. Reid Silva of Vineyard Land Surveying was present for the applicant. Mr. Silva explained that the bank is steep on the harbor side and the applicants would like to protect it. They would like to use planted jute netting on face of the bank and drift fencing on the beach. Mr. Silva said this method is similar to the recent Eberstadt project.

On the Cape Poge Pond side they would like to use coir logs secured with oak stakes and wrapped in geogrid. 12-inches of sand would then be placed on top of the jute and planted. They propose to use 20-inch coir logs with a one-foot layer of sand to stabilize the toe of the bank. The logs will be dug into the bank and will go approximately 3-feet up the side. The bank itself is between 5 and 6 feet high in most places. Mr. Silva noted that there is less movement on this side of the property.

Brown said she was reluctant to allow a manmade solution on the pond side, where there is little evidence of erosion. Mr. Silva noted that the Burgins are willing to supply sand to their neighbors' property as well, to offset any possible end-effect erosion. The sand will be supplied by Keene's and is originally from Cape Cod. Mr. Silva said they may be able to use dredge spoils, if there is a convenient project in the works. He said that the whole project would require no more than 10-cubic yards of sand.

Kontje was concerned about traffic on the beach and asked how the sand will be transported to the site. Mr. Silva said that 10-cubic yards can be transported in two small landscape trucks. He said that the coir logs are light, and will not require too many trips back and forth. Mr. Silva stated that the beach in that area is primarily gravel and cobble.

The adjacent Wilcox property will be used for access, as there is an existing path to the beach. Mr. Wilcox commented that the rate of erosion has picked up some in the past 8 to 10 years. The area is most vulnerable with easterly winds and storm tides. Generally, he said, the sediment moves north to south, so the Burgin property supplies the Wilcox property with sand. In exchange for granting access, the Burgins have agreed to treat 50-feet of the Wilcoxes' bank. It was noted that the Wilcoxes would also need to file a notice of intent or an amendment and have a separate order of conditions.

The applicants had originally planned to just nourish the beach, but after some further exploration they realized that they did not want to spend \$50,000 to \$60,000 on imported sand that may last only a year. This solution - with the coir logs - will be more expensive initially, but will presumably last longer.

Brown said that she was okay with the work on the harbor side work, but was reluctant to approve anything on the Cape Poge without evidence of serious erosion. She suggested that that phase of the project be postponed until the applicants can supply more convincing evidence.

Wilcox stated that the erosion seems to be increasing from ½ foot per year to a foot per year. Mr. Silva noted that this is an important part of the project for the Burgins. He said that when the project is complete the area will not look significantly different as it will be planted with beach grass and switch grass. Province asked to be informed of the source of the switch grass. Mr. Silva said that the applicant would like to start the harbor side of the project this march.

Brown made a motion to approve the proposed work on the harbor side as phase one, and allow the applicant to return for phase two – the pond side - at a later date. Kontje seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

MUNEY Request for a determination of applicability to construct a garage with detached bedroom above, Kanomika. Connie O'Dougherty present for the applicant. A report of the site visit was given. Doug Davies is the landscaper. The agent gave an update on the restoration order. It was noted on site that tire tracks seem to indicate that trucks are driving near the pond and that there seemed to be some recent cutting of the understory. The agent will take up these matters with the landscape contractor

There were no issues with the proposed garage with detached bedroom above and the project has the approval of the Kanomika association.

Province made a motion to issue a negative determination. Lollis seconded. Unanimously approved.

LENSSSEN/FERRINI request for an amendment to construct a new, single-family residence. Doug Dowling did not attend. The Commission reviewed the request and determined that it would require the filing of a new notice of intent.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

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