

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 8 April 2015

Members present: Stuart Lollis, Jeffrey Carlson, Bob Avakian, Geoffrey Kontje

Absent: Christina Brown, Lil Province, Peter Vincent - Chairman

Staff: Jane Varkonda, Lisa Morrison

Farm Institute Jon Previant, Jonathan Chatinover – president, and John Vasconcellos, Southeast Regional Director of the Trustees of Reservations, were present to update the Commission on the proposed merger between the two organizations. Mr. Previant said that he is hopeful that the agreement will take place by the end of year or at the beginning of 2016. Mr. Previant said that he believes that the merger will allow the Farm Institute to increase its scope and bring the financial stability that will enable them to continue running the farm and its programs. Carlson asked if the trustees would eventually become the leaseholder. Mr. Previant replied that one of the contingencies in the agreement would be that the Trustees, as well as the Farm Institute, will be on the lease.

Mr. Vasconcellos commented that the Trustees lease a number of farms in Massachusetts. Avakian asked how the merger would work. Mr. Previant said that basically the Trustees would take over the back office and the Farm Institute would continue to run the farm and the farm programs. Farm Institute employees will be paid by the Trustees. The financial burden of operating the farm will be transferred or shared with the Trustees.

Mr. Previant noted that the farm has broken even the last few years, but said that it is very stressful working without a safety net. He said that the Trustees are promising to allow the farm to maintain its identity, while at the same time providing some financial security.

The fundraising for the new teaching kitchen/classroom is well underway, with the Trustees pledging another million.

Mr. Vasconcellos commented that in addition to their leased properties, the Trustees own a ½ dozen operating farms. He said he hopes to create a financial model that would allow the farm to have an endowment, rather than seeing their finances go down to zero each year.

The Commission thanked the men for attending and bringing them up to speed on the proposal.

Eberstadt. Reid Silva from V.L.S. was present to discuss installing a stone revetment on the Eberstadt property on Plantingfield Way. Silva noted that the various soft solutions have not worked and the January storm decimated the shoreline. He reminded the Commission that he and Mr. Eberstadt were at a meeting last month to discuss the feasibility of transitioning to a hard solution. Silva said that he does not think that a soft solution will work at this site, there is just too much wave energy.

Silva presented a graph with CZM data overlaid on the site plan. Over the past 20 years, the site has eroded exponentially. He then went over the design of the proposed revetment. He said that design was pretty standard and noted that the wall be planted with beach grass and *rosa rugosa*. He noted that another important component of the plan was on-going beach nourishment to off-set any sediment loss down the beach. They are proposing to add approximately 85 cubic yards of sediment annually. The sediment will come from dredge projects or compatible material imported from the Cape component.

Kontje was concerned about allowing a man-made solution in a previously pristine area.

Lollis was concerned about backwashing during storm and end-effect erosion on the south side. Silva said that it is hoped that the annual nourishment and the existing vegetation will mitigate any end-effect erosion. He said that it is not an area with excessive sediment transport, and therefore the areas down the beach should not be overly affected. Silva noted that end-effect erosion is more common on straight sandy beaches than on vegetated shorelines. Silva commented noted that coir logs systems can also generate end-effect erosion. Lollis asked about plantings. Silva said that he thinks nourishment is the answer, as it takes time for plants to develop deep root systems. New plantings will not hold during a storm.

Silva said the shoreline would be monitored annually in the spring for five or six years; some years additional nourishment may be required.

After some further discussion, the Commission voted to continue the hearing to the next meeting , 22 April, to allow for an additional site visit. Silva will stake the revetment location on site.

FRIEDLANDER Doug Cooper representing applicant. NOI in response to an enforcement order. Applicant would like to install a low stone-wall, 1 to 2 feet high, on the upland side to demarcate the wetland and prevent further incursions into the resource area. The wall will be approximately 40-feet long, but it will be fairly unobtrusive as it will taper down to zero. The plan is to allow the natural species to grow back. The applicant is aware that no work can take place on Major's Cove common land. The dirt pile will be removed from the site. Mr. Cooper said that the first phase of the project will be to put in the wall and then see what vegetation comes up. The second phase will involve hand-plucking invasives for a period of time. There was some discussion about the adjacent area, which will not be demarcated by the wall. It was suggested that the goose barrier could be moved back 10-feet or so to serve this purpose until the wetlands vegetation grows back. After some further discussion, Avakian made a motion to approve with conditions. Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

METROPOULOS. NOI - Trenching for new electric service, Cow Bay. Paul Bettencourt was present for the applicant. Kontje made it known that he works regularly with Mr. Bettencourt, but was not involved with this project. There were no objections to Mr. Kontje sitting. The conduit will be installed by directional drilling under the existing causeway. The current cable is not in good shape and has been exposed in several areas. The plan is in process of being reviewed by the Cow Bay Association. Geoff Kontje made a motion to approve the project as presented. Lollis seconded. Unanimously approved.

CARSEY . *Determination*. Renovate boat house, Old Pocha Road. Mike Stewart present for the applicant. The boat house is approximately 10' x 20' and 50-feet from the water. The project involves repairing doors, adding windows, and pouring a slab foundation. There will be no enlarging of the structure. Currently the sills are rotting and the structure has a dirt floor and is on concrete blocks. Lollis made a motion to issue a negative determination of applicability. Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

MV LAND BANK *Determination* Matt Dix, property manager, made the presentation. Proposal involves restoring the former Self property to a meadow. They would like to remove the existing structure in cooperation with the fire department, which will burn the building as part of a training exercise. A shed will also be demolished and approximately 20 trees will be removed from the site. Invasives will also be removed, and the area will be allowed to rejuvenate naturally or will be overseeded with native grasses. All the work is within buffer zone. The trees to be removed are cedars and dying black oaks that were infected by parasitic wasps. The Land Bank hopes to provide more habitat for the New England blazing star, which has been found on the nearby Heywood property. Meadow will be maintained by periodic mowing, once or twice a year. A herd of goats will also be utilized. The existing dock and boathouse will remain on the property, in private ownership. The work will be done over next two months. Carlson made a motion to issue a negative determination of applicability. Kontje seconded. Unanimously approved.

EDGARTOWN YACHT CLUB Bill Roman was present to discuss the repair of approximately 95-feet of the concrete bulkhead. The ice over the winter has caused the concrete to crumble and the bulkhead is in danger of collapsing into the harbor. A number of options have been explored such as building a new wall in front of the existing one or installing fiberglass sheeting and filling behind it. The sheeting would be installed from a barge and would go down 4.5 to 5 feet and be secured with helical anchors. A new wood and stone cap would then be installed. Kontje was concerned about the aesthetics of such a fix, especially since the bulkhead is in the middle of the historic district. He asked if the plan had been reviewed by the committee.

After some further discussion, it was agreed to refer the matter to the Selectmen and schedule a site visit.

LYNCH Landscape maintenance and restoration, South Water Street. Cammie Naylor present for the applicant. A brief report of the site visit was given. The proposal involves removing invasive Japanese knotweed and phragmites by cutting and applying herbicide by hand. The applicant would also like to

improve the view by replacing some shrubs with lower-growing ones and then adding perennials. Lollis made a motion to approve the project as presented. Avakian seconded. Unanimously approved.

ROLLS Jacob's Neck. Kristen Riemann was present to discuss a proposed landscape plan. It was agreed that the project would be done in stages. Permission was given for the removal of trees enumerated on the plan as 3, 10, 11, 15, and 19. Shad will remain. Meadow may be mowed once a year. Walls will be installed to demarcate the 2500 s.f. of permitted lawn. Site will be revisited in June, after the trees have been removed

TYRA Agent noticed that some unauthorized cutting had been done behind the locker plant on the Edgartown-West Tisbury Road. A site visit will be scheduled.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Approved