

MINUTES OF A CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

Present: Vincent; Kontje; Carlson; Lollis; Province; Brown  
Staff: Varkonda

SHERIFF'S MEADOW: Kristen Fauteux represented the applicant. Province abstained. The Commission reviewed the application for the management of the Frances preserve. Fauteux stated that the present plans are for the improvement of the view from the road, and will involve removal of some autumn olive, black pines, some oaks and the phragmites. She further noted that one of the abutters has been cutting the vegetation without approval of Sheriff's Meadow.

Kontje asked why not remove most of what is growing there since it used to look more like a typical coastal dune. Fauteux noted that this is just for one portion of the management plan, the vista. Dick Knight commented that the area used to be just all beach grass, like Wasque, and why cannot SMF manage for that type of landscape. Fauteux responded that maybe in the future SMF can do more work to achieve those goals. Knight encouraged the Commission to encourage the removal of as much woody vegetation as possible at this point.

Bill Brine Jr. presented an old aerial photo which showed that the area was all sand. He further noted that the property is being adversely impacted by runoff from Litchfield Road. Fauteux agreed and that is part of the reason why the phragmites is taking off on the property due to the fresh water runoff. Knight asked if the SMF board would consider working with the Land Bank to manage this property along with the McLagan and Bryant properties.

Carlson asked if the majority of the work would be done in the spring; Fauteux stated yes. Kontje voted to close the hearing and issue a permit approving the work. Brown second with conditions that the invasive can be removed in the fall and as often as necessary; tree roots to remain intact and that the remainder of the work on the view be conducted in the spring after a site review with the Commission's Agent. The application was unanimously approved.

DOWH HARBOR ASSOCIATION: Tracy Smith, SB&H, represented the applicant. The Commission reviewed that application for the reconstruction and minor realignment of an existing timber boardwalk over the salt marsh. Revised plans were submitted indicating a total length of 160 feet and a ramp at either end. The walkway is designed with the fiberglass grating to allow maximum light penetration. Photos of the existing walkway were presented; the present walkway being 32 inches wide, comprised of two planks nearly at ground level.

Vincent asked how many properties use the boardwalk. Smith responded 30 owners and 34 houses. Bill Veno noted from the audience that the fiberglass grating is hard for dogs to walk on. Province motioned to close the hearing and approve the application. Lollis second. Brown noted that she was concerned over widening the boardwalk to 48 inches; the increase in width may result and more traffic and disturbance to the wildlife. Brown motioned to amend the approval to a 32 inch walkway (present width). The motion did not receive a second. The application was unanimously approved.

GOODSILL: Tracy Smith, SB&H represented the applicant. The Commission reviewed an application for a shed. Smith stated that it is a 9x26 shed, no foundation but set on sona tubes with electricity and no water. Chris Bruno, Assistant Superintendent for TTOR stated that TTOR is concerned that the structure not be visible. Tracy noted the location for Mr. Bruno and he agreed that the structure would not be visible from the public vista. Carlson moved for a negative determination, Province second, unanimously approved.

WELCH: George Sourati represented the applicant. The Commission reviewed an application for a boardwalk and kayak rack. Sourati noted that the path existed and the owners had been storing the kayaks on the beach. The plan included a gently sloping walkway with steps at the end. Province motioned for a site visit, Brown second, unanimous.

BOURNE: Reid Silva represented the applicant. The Commission continued the hearing regarding request to maintain a lawn area that the Commission determined to be a wetland. Silva presented various photos and a memorandum written by George Brush. The memorandum contains Brush's opinion as to whether the continued maintenance of an existing lawn is a protected "grandfathered" activity under the Wetland Protection Act and the Edgartown Wetland Bylaw. Silva stated that he had spoken to Dan Gilmore at DEP regarding a similar case the State had, and Silva further asserted that the State determined that the Wetlands Act did not apply. Silva stated that Mr. Bourne was looking for a compromise.

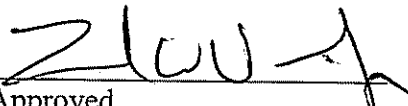
Vincent noted that the lot had been filled and no Chapter 91 license had been issued and that Chapter 91 regulations have existed since the mid 1800's. Doug Cooper stated that the lot has 2 out of 3 of the standard indicators for wetland delineation.

Province motioned for a site visit and time to digest the information submitted, Brown second, unanimous.

The Commission voted to hold an executive session meeting on September 30, 2015 at 5 pm to be held in the Selectmen's room for the purpose of reviewing a proposed lease of Katama Farm.

Varkonda noted that the CPC deadline was approaching and a potential purchase of a property next to the Fisherman's landing in Katama would be a possibility for the Commission to pursue. The Commission voted to explore the possible purchase of land with CPC funds.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10.

  
Approved