

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting - 19 March 2014

Members present: Peter Vincent - Chairman, Lil Province, Jeff Carlson, Stuart Lollis, Christina Brown

Absent: Bob Avakian, Edo Potter

Staff: Lisa Morrison, Jane Varkonda

CONNORS NOI to rehabilitate a lawn, North Water Street. Richard Barbini representing applicant. Caleb Nicholson of Contemporary Landscapes was also present. The proposal involves the excavation of approximately 3200 s.f. of lawn area. The existing soils will be replaced with clean sand. No changes in contour or grade are proposed, the intent is just to improve drainage. Currently, the water does not perc through, and drains so slowly that the lawn is always mushy. Approximately 10,000 cubic feet of material will be excavated and trucked off-site to Goodales. The excavation will go down to either sand or ground water. Most of what is being removed is silt and clay. Mr. Barbini noted that this is very similar to a proposal approved on the Zollo property. Lollis thought the abutters would want to get in on the project. Barbini said he thought that less water would run-off onto the neighbors' properties. Province made a motion to approve the project as presented. Lollis seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Conditions to include: hay bales or silt fence as shown on plan, fill will be tested and only clean sand will be used, site will be monitored to ensure there is no erosion of loose material into the harbor.

EDGARTOWN GOLF CLUB NOI to replace existing maintenance building. Mark Hess and Ken Magnuson were present for the club. Mr. Hess explained that the existing building is deteriorating. They would like to replace it with a somewhat smaller and lower steel building. They also hope to add more decorative windows and landscaping. The footprint and location are virtually the same. They would like to raise the grade about a foot and a half to ameliorate drainage. Building will be on a concrete slab. Haybales will be installed between the construction site and the wetland. The cement floors will be graded so that the slope is toward the center of building. The cement floor will continue up about a foot all around to contain any spills. Heavy equipment will be stored in another building and all the fuel tanks for the club are outside and above-ground. Carlson made a motion to approve the project as presented. Province seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

MARX [continuation] Revetment off North Neck Road. Carlos Pena and Jim Glavin present for the applicants. At the earlier meeting, the commissioners asked for information on other projects. Mr. Pena submitted several examples of his work and added that he has been working on shorelines for 30 years, for the Division of Conservation Resources and as a private engineer. He said he has been involved with over 250 coastal structures.

Mr. Pena noted that the Commission was concerned that the revetment would exacerbate erosion on the ends of the revetment. Mr. Pena said that the area has been fairly stable, but there appears to be a

pocket of softer material in front of the house, where the erosion is accelerated. He noted that the proposed revetment will have an irregular, undulating face so that there is no place for water to speed up and curl over the structure. The revetment would be tapered on both ends to avoid scouring. The house is currently 94-feet back from the bank. The revetment would be 80-feet from the north property line and about 5-feet from the other property line.

Brown asked what would be the disadvantage of not building the revetment. Pena replied that the weakness - or pocket – in the bank would continue to erode at a faster rate than the rest of the bank. Mr. Pena noted that the Commission had allowed similar structures on two nearby properties. Brown noted that the house is not in imminent danger.

Brown wanted to know what kind of assurance could the applicant present that the dune will not be flattened and the adjacent wetland washed out. She commented that the house appears to sit on a mound and that there is some scrubby vegetation between the house and the edge of the bank. Mr. Pena replied that there is a breakwater located to the north of the property, which blocks the wave energy.

Lollis cautioned that the board needs to be consistent. Carlson noted that each site and each condition is different. In this case the house is not in imminent danger. Carlson said that he was concerned about accelerated erosion to the north and south as a result of this revetment. Brown agreed and said she would like to hold off on granting approval. She said that if the situation deteriorates, the applicant could reapply. Carlson made a motion to deny the proposal as presented. Brown seconded the motion and voted to deny. Lollis voted in favor of the proposal. Province and Vincent voted to deny. Motion denied 4 to 1.

SCHIFTER George Sourati and Josh Kochin of Landscape were present to discuss the March progress report. Over the winter, the hydromulch froze and caused water to form sheets that turned into gullies which funneled the water towards the bank. An additional 30-feet of bank was lost after the coir logs were removed. The house is now 245-feet from the bank instead of 275-feet. The erosion rate has slowed as fewer of the storms are coming from the south and southeast. Sourati said that the opening is changing all the time. Grade will be altered slightly prior to planting. Sourati will submit a plan showing the revised grades.

Sourati asked to place a row of coir logs in the eroding area just until planting can begin. They would remain in place until the grading of the site is finished.

Carlson asked if they had considered using some little bluestem sod in the critical areas. Sourati said that the owners and the landscape architect are concerned that all the seed and plant material be of local origin. Mr. Kochin said that he believes the seeding will be successful once some minor regarding is done.

The agent said she had no concerns with allowing the logs to be placed on a temporary basis. The Commissioners approved the project pending a site visit, which scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 24th.

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

Approved: _____

[The site visit was conducted as stated, and the Commissioners gave final approval for the temporary placement of coir logs]