

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 27 February 2013

Members present: Stuart Lollis, Lil Province, Christina Brown, Bob Avakian, and Jeff Carlson

Absent: Peter Vincent – Chairman, Edo Potter

Staff: Jane Varkonda, Lisa Morrison

MV Land Bank Installation of a sand ladder at Chappy Point. Matthew Dix, Land Bank property manager, made the presentation. The intent of the new boardwalk is to alleviate ferry parking congestion. People are accessing the Land Bank beach from the busiest part of the town parking area. The boardwalk would rest right on the ground made and will be made from spruce planking connected by steel cables. Application has been filed with Natural Heritage. The Land Bank will install some signage to direct beachgoers to the boardwalk. The project was initiated at the request of the CIA's transportation committee. Mr. Dix noted that the Land Bank parking lot is not really being used; it only has space for 2 to 3 cars. Avakian made a motion to approve the project as presented. Province seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Brown noted that the boardwalk is designed at 5-feet wide to make it handicapped accessible. Dix noted that there is handicapped-access available from the Land Bank's parking lot.

MV Land Bank Request for a determination of applicability. Mr. Dix explained that the Land Bank would like to continue to add material to the old gravel and stump pit on the property. They would also like to remove some of the invasive vegetation on the property. The Land Bank purchased the property in 2001 – with the existing gravel pit. They have been gradually filling it in [subject to an earlier order of conditions]. Mr. Dix estimated that the pit could handle another 20 to 30,000 cubic yards of clean fill before the reclamation is complete. The applicant would also like to remove the bittersweet and other invasives and bury them under the fill. Project has been approved by NHESP. Province made a motion to issue a negative determination of applicability. Avakian seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Tower Hill (Barris) Richard Barbini representing applicant. NOI to maintain an existing pier and tie off spiles. License issued in 1983, pier was built some time after and a certificate of compliance was issued in December of last year. MAC would like the depth of water at the end of the pier to be indicated on the plan, as well as the distance to the abutting pier to the south. Avakian made a motion to issue an order of conditions. Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Kohlberg Glenn Provost and Kate Warner representing applicant. Former Chaffee property lot. Proposed addition will be approximately 60 x 17. Construction will occur mostly within existing lawn area. Disturbed areas will be

planted with native vegetation, not as lawn. No change in views are proposed. The addition abuts the woods, and will not be visible from the pond. No basement is proposed and the trim will be cedar left to weather. Province made a motion to approve the project with a 15-foot construction zone, limited outdoor lighting, and a replanting plan to be submitted for review. Avakian seconded the motion. Unanimously approved.

Old Pocha Construction of replace dwelling and related, under bylaw only. Richard Barbini representing applicant. A report of the site visit was given. A small, dilapidated building currently exists on the property, which was bought by Marcie Carsey. Carlson made a motion to approve the project. Province seconded. The following conditions were included: a landscaping & lighting plan to be submitted prior to completion of construction, 25-foot construction zone on the water side of the property, any work on the boat house will require a separate filing.

Abbrecht Seth Wilkinson of Wilkinson Environmental representing applicant. Project involves the installation of a fiber roll array to abate erosion of a coastal bank. A synopsis of the site visit was given. Mr. Wilkinson submitted current photos of the site, showing more erosion. Preplanted coir rolls are proposed for the site, which give the plantings a head start and something to hold on to when hit by waves. The intent of the project is to create a gentler slope to the bank in order to dissipate the wave energy. Mr. Wilkinson characterizes the project as a 'plant-based' erosion system. Coastal wheat, switchgrass, and little blue stem will all be used and all have extensive root systems. These species do very well in areas where sand does not accrete. Beach grass does best in areas where it is covered with sand periodically, which keeps insects away from the rhizomes. Beach grass colonizes early, but is apt to pose problems later on if not planted in an area where it is regularly recovered with sand.

The plan calls for installing 70 coir rolls, each ten-feet long and 2-feet in diameter. The rolls will be placed in rows ranging from two to five to seven, following the line of the existing toe of the bank. Rolls will be placed using a small excavator. Mr. Wilkinson noted that they use all their own equipment, which is fueled by biodiesel. He noted that they have never had an on-site spill. Site will be accessed via a grass path adjacent to the property line. Mr. Wilkinson said they may need to cut some Japanese black pines. The anchors holding the rolls will go down approximately 5-feet. Bank will be cut and filled, with crews working in a sideways direction. Site will be stabilized on a daily basis. The entire project will take between seven to ten working days, depending on the weather and the tides.

Logs will be tagged for identification purposes, should they float off the site and end up on other property. The logs are encased in polypropylene mesh and then covered with coir matting. All material will biodegrade in 7 to 8 years. Lollis made a motion to approve the project. Avakian seconded the motion.

Unanimously approved with conditions.

Letterman Request for minor amendment to a recent order of conditions that specified the use of native-grown plant species. Applicant has been having difficulty finding island-grown species and is asking permission to use native plants from nurseries on Cape Cod. Request approved, agent will review final planting plan.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Approved: _____