

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 15 May 2013

Members present: Edo Potter, Christina Brown, Stuart Lollis, Jeff Carlson, Lil Province

Absent: Bob Avakian, Peter Vincent - Chairman

Staff: Lisa Morrison, Jane Varkonda

PUBLIC HEARINGS: (*Continuations*)

Breier - installation of a wading pool, stone walls, bluestone patio, shed renovation, and additional site improvements, 71 South Water Street.

Doug Hoehn and Patrick Ahearn representing applicants. A brief report of the site visit was given. The blue stone patio has been reduced in size so that it is no longer in an area designated as wetlands. Province made a motion to approve the project as presented. Lollis seconded. A revised plan will be submitted.

Bryan - 640-foot elevated walkway over salt marsh, 93 Pocha Road.

Richard Barbini and John Nugent present for the applicants. A report of the site visit was given. Barbini reiterated that the only portion of the structure that is in the marsh is the support pipes. Barbini explained that the applicants would like to be able to access the water to use their kayaks. He said that the entire shoreline in this area is heavily vegetated; there is no beach. Potter had several concerns: she noted that there were no other private boardwalks in the area and that the shoreline of Pocha is one of the few pristine pond fronts left. Brown sited concerns relative to the protection of historic and natural views. Potter was concerned that the boardwalk could be used to tie up a boat. A special permit from the Planning Board will also be required as the property is in the Cape Poge DCPC.

A letter from the Land Bank objecting to the project was read. The objections were based on concerns that the boardwalk may jeopardize water quality in the pond. Mr. Nugent said that he was encouraged to apply for the boardwalk by the Conservation Agent.

Steve Ewing noted that this is one of the longest boardwalks he remembers, other than an 800-foot one in Sengekontacket. He commented that this area is much less development and that the marsh feed directly into Cape Poge. Potter noted that Cape Poge is an important shellfish resource that many depend upon. Lollis commented that the boardwalk seems excessive and without clear purpose. Carlson made a motion to deny saying that he felt the construction would have a deleterious effect on wildlife, historic and traditional views and vistas. Lollis seconded the motion. Unanimously denied.

Bryan - Landscape Plan, 93 Pocha Road.

John Nugent said that the Bryans would like to keep the same lawn area as the previous owner, Joe Cressy. Currently the lawn goes right up to the wetlands. Mr. Nugent said that they would like to sod just those areas that are disturbed by the house construction. Carlson suggested that a fescue sod be used instead of regular sod. Brown suggested that scotch broom be removed from the planting plan as it is an invasive. She also requested that they types of ornamental grasses be specified, and that miscanthus not be included. Landscape plan unanimously approved with these conditions.

Tomason – Review view channels, off Meetinghouse Way.

Josh Kochin from Landscape was present for the applicant. View channels were the subject of an enforcement order as they were cut down to nearly ground-level. Last year Mr. Tomason applied to do some work on the view channels, but the application was denied as the Commission felt that the vegetation had not yet grown in sufficiently to require additional pruning or tree removal. Mr. Kochin said that his client would again like to remove approximately ten trees and maintain the channels. Province commented that the vegetation had grown in well. After some further discussion, it was determined that Mr. Tomason should file a new notice of intent for this work, which he would then be allowed to maintain.

Abandoned trailer at Katama Farm.

Commission authorized the demolition and removal of the trailer if it is not removed by June 15th.

Scoops 5K at Katama Farm.

Commission voted to permit the 21st Annual 5K, with the condition that the organizers coordinate with Jabberwocky should their race be planned for the same date.

3 Otter Farm, Jobs Neck.

Tori Fletcher gave the Commission an update on the on-going negotiations with Natural Heritage. She explained that the state lists 46 moth species as threatened or endangered. Twenty-three of these are known on the Vineyard, and apparently 8 of these listed species have been found on the property.

In order to improve the habitat for the rare moths, Natural Heritage is encouraging thinning of the tree canopy and managing the understory. The applicants are also proposing to keep sheep on the property in order to manage the understory. Plans for a proposed sheep shed were submitted and approved as an addendum to the original order of conditions.

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

Approved: _____