

## Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting – 23 October 2013

Members present: Peter Vincent – Chairman, Stuart Lollis, Edo Potter, Bob Avakian, Christina Brown, Jeff Carlson

Absent: Lil Province

Staff: Jane Varkonda, Lisa Morrison

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT Stuart Fuller, Highway Superintendent, was present as was Roger Becker of the Chappaquiddick Island Association transportation committee. Chrissy Haslet, Peter Wells, and Bob Clay from the transportation committee were also present. Mr. Fuller explained the project, which involves shrinking waiting line on the harbor side, widening the grass median, shifting the travel lanes, and reconfiguring and repaving the parking area and roadways. Paved areas will be resurfaced, and the sand parking lot graded. A reinforcing grid just below the road surface will be filled with  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch gravel. Mr. Fuller said that the project will remove about 5500 sq ft of vegetation, however the equivalent amount will be added to the median. The CIA transportation committee has approved the plan after many meetings and iterations. Mr. Becker explained that the parking spaces are too small and the lot is not big enough for a car to turn around. He said there have been many fender benders as a result. Mr. Fuller noted that no new spaces are being added, even though the lot is expanding by 50-feet. The spaces will be larger and the traffic flow improved. Vincent asked how close the parking area will be to the adjacent Land Bank property. Mr. Fuller said there will be a 92-foot buffer. The project is entirely on town land and in the road layout.

Ms. Haslet commented that they are also trying to make the lot safer for the kids and parents leaving the beach club in the summer.

Richard Knight asked if any thought had been given to bicycles. Mr. Becker said that the bike situation will remain pretty much the same. He said that after many meetings, the committee decided that some problems, such as bicycles and overflow parking, just had no practical solution. Mr. Becker said that they tried to hire a professional engineer but the cost was too high. They did have the plan reviewed by an intern civil engineer. The highway superintendent did not think that the plan needed to go to an outside contractor.

Overflow parking will continue on ad hoc basis on the left side.

Avakian made a motion to approve the project as presented. Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimously approved. Conditions to include: silt barriers, list of native plantings to be submitted to the agent for review.

CHAPPY FERRY Peter Wells was present for a preliminary discussion of a proposal to bury two mooring blocks. The blocks will be used to hold the ferry in the extra slip during severe weather. He said that they tried the system during Irene and it worked well. Mr. Wells would like to coordinate the project with the parking lot improvements as the blocks will be buried under the asphalt. They will be accessed by a covered manhole. The mooring blocks will be 4-feet by 4-feet solid concrete.

Brown asked if Wells had considered using helical anchors. Mr. Wells said that he can't inspect helical anchors once they are buried, but he will be able to see the rings embedded in the concrete. The system will only be used when there is a hurricane threat.

The commissioners had no concerns and gave their preliminary approval. A formal application will be reviewed at the next meeting. This discussion was scheduled because the highway superintendent and the CIA/transportation committee were all present.

\*\*\*\*\*

The board reviewed a request from Lori Stephenson to place a memorial bench at Chappy Point. Potter and Brown were concerned about setting a precedent. Mr. Becker said that the transportation committee would like to see some seats down there. Brown wanted to see the design of the bench and was concerned about preserving historic views and vistas.

After some further discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Stephenson should work with the transportation committee of the CIA to come up with a design and location for the bench, which could then be forwarded to the Commission for review.

\*\*\*\*\*

DREDGE COMMITTEE (Continued – Vincent abstained as member of the Dredge Committee) Report of the site visit was given. There was some discussion regarding alternate ways of moving the sand down the beach from the Lighthouse to build up the dunes off Fuller Street. Agent reported that not enough material is involved to justify laying the pipe. A response from Heritage is expected soon. Avakian made a motion to approve the project, pending approval from NHESP. Lollis seconded. Unanimously approved by all those voting.

SOLAR PROJECT – KATAMA FARM Berm planting was discussed. An 8-foot high chain link fence is proposed. The commission asked that black vinyl fencing be substituted for chain link, as it will be more unobtrusive. Agent thought some of the planting should be taller. The Commission would also like to see the planting along Aero Avenue as well. Continued to the next meeting, November 6<sup>th</sup>.

GIFT OF LAND Agent reported that she has had some conversations with Herb Tate, who is considering donating some land along Crab Creek to the town. The commission endorsed the idea that the land would be given to the town under the care and control of the conservation commission.

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_