

Minutes of a Conservation Commission Meeting - 21 March 2012

Members present: Jeff Carlson, Peter Vincent - Chair, Stuart Lollis, Christina Brown

Absent: Bob Avakian, Edo Potter, Lil Province

Staff: Jane Varkonda & Lisa Morrison

Steve Ewing was present to explain a letter written for him by his attorney, Rob McCarron. Mr. Ewing said that he continues to enjoy being the Commission's appointed representative to the Land Bank Advisory Board. However, he has been looking for land for his business for several months. He was kicked off some land that he leased for over 20 years. He commented that there is not a lot of commercial space available in town. He has been asking several large landowners to sell or lease him a piece. He would like to have a cooperative along with some other people who need storage.

Last October a parcel came up that was on the Land Bank's acquisition list. Mr. Ewing said he had also made inquiries to the owner of this parcel. This deal has since fallen through, but others could come up in the future. After consultation with his attorney, Mr. Ewing wrote to the Commission in the spirit of full disclosure.

Vincent said that he could see it only becoming a problem if the Land Bank was actively negotiating or actively seeking that Steve was also interested in. Ewing said that he would, of course, cease negotiations should this occur. Mr. Ewing noted that half the vacant properties in town are on the Land Bank's list.

Lollis commented that Mr. Ewing seemed to be aware of the issues and was inclined to trust his judgment. The board said they all wanted Mr. Ewing to remain as their appointee to the advisory board. Commission will write a letter after consultation with Rob McCarron

Public Hearings:

Trustees of Reservations. Relocation of OSV trail, Norton Point-South Beach. Chris Kennedy, superintendent, introduced Katie O'Donnell, new assistant superintendent for the Trustees. Mr. Kennedy explained that a winter storm has erode the inside OSV trail preventing access to Norton Point beach. Mr. Kennedy is asking permission to create 4200 feet of new inside OSV trail 40 yards north of the previous trail. The problem is that the barrier beach is moving north and the roadway is stationary. New trail will be located on secondary dunes, heavily vegetated with beach grass. Trail is to be approximately 10-feet

wide, with several turnouts. Plan is currently before Natural Heritage, however the area is not considered shore bird habitat. Mr. Kennedy said it will take no more than an afternoon to create the trail. No changes in elevation are proposed. Continued to the next meeting, April 4th, to allow for comment from Natural Heritage and a site visit by interested members.

Wyner. Request for a determination of applicability for one-story addition and septic upgrade for a private home in Mattakesset. Doug Cooper representing applicant. Determination is under the local bylaw only as the work area is 100-feet from 100-year flood zone. Closest point is 70-feet to flood line. Wetlands are 300-feet away. All work will take place on developed lawn. The addition is over an existing deck and patio. Separation from groundwater will be increased to 7-feet. Lot is tied into town water. Commission voted unanimously to issue a negative determination of applicability to be issued at the next meeting after advertisement and notice to abutters.

Crackatuxet. Stuart Lollis made it known that his wife is a member of the Crackatuxet Trust, he is not. There were no objections to his sitting. David LeBretton and Doug Cooper were present for the trust. Originally filed as a determination, amended to a request to amend order of conditions. Basically a

dune blow out caused the existing parking area to become covered in sand. The Trust does not want to relocate parking area as that would destroy viable habitat. A report of the site visit was given. Basically the trust would like to scoop up the sand and put it back on the dune. Continued to the next meeting for comment from Natural Heritage.

MV Regency. Meadow rehabilitation, Butler's Cove. Kara Shemeth and Carlos Montoya present for the applicants. Herring Creek Farm landowners have signed off on the proposal. The agent pointed out that CR on the property is held jointly by the town and the Nature Conservancy. The CR states that all vegetation planted outside the development envelope must be of Vineyard genetic stock. The application not quite compatible with the CR. [See agent's notes].

Natural Heritage suggested some changes to the plant list.

Applicant to bring in revised planting plan. Continued to next meeting, April 4th.

Sheriff's Meadow - Kristen Fauteux told the Commission that Sheriff's Meadow has recently purchased the Mattern property on Chappaquiddick. The Commission unanimously approved a connecting to trail system across a portion of the Gardner property. Brown said she would like to see the trail signs before they are posted.

Dredge Committee Protocol. Protocol was reviewed and approved. Brown wanted to make sure that both the dredge crew and the foreman sign off that all permits have been obtained and that copies of the permits are on the vessel and will be followed.

Malm. Unauthorized cutting. Agent reported that Peggy Schwier will be present at the next meeting to discuss restoration of cutting done by Bill Bernard.

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

Approved: _____