



TOWN OF

HARWICH

732 Main Street

Harwich, MA 02645

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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HARWICH CONSERVATION COMMISSION – MINUTES

Thursday, MAY 21, 2020--6:30 P.M.

Present Remotely: Brad Chase, Mark Coleman, Stanley Pastuszak, Carolyn O’Leary, James Donovan, Ernie Crabtree and Conservation Administrator Amy Usowski.

Call to Order

By Chairman Brad Chase.

HEARINGS

Amended Order of Conditions

Vincent Helfrich, 33 Snow Inn Road, Map 8 Parcel P3-0. Proposed dead man tie back system and access improvements.

Presenter: Don Munroe, Vincent Helfrich

The applicants are presenting an as-built and asking for an Amended OOC for work landward of the bulkhead. Usowski was expecting a typical bulkhead cap and this one appears to be more of a wooden walkway. She was expecting some of the work, but there was also some that should not have been completed until an AOOC was issued. The bulkhead sheet that was used was 3’ wide which is why the cap is almost 4’ wide. They thought the way it was constructed was better for Ch. 91 required access than a concrete cap. Fill has been removed from behind the bulkhead and anything that was displaced in front of the bulkhead has been replaced, but no dredging has occurred yet. There is approval to dredge sometime in June. Crabtree expressed concerns with the depth and placement of boats. Usowski would like measurements at mean low water to ensure that required depths are met. Monroe will do some more topography and add that to the plan. Usowski would like one final existing conditions plan showing everything. **Motion to continue to June 17, 2020 by Brad Chase and seconded by Ernie Crabtree. Motion approved unanimously.**

Requests for Determination of Applicability

Mike and Beth Adams, 97 Pleasant Road, Map Parcel Z3-5. Enlarge Driveway.

Presenter: Mike Adams

Usowski met with the applicant on site and suggested extending the driveway to the north instead of increasing it towards the wetland. A 30'x18' driveway addition in an area of existing lawn is now being proposed. Two tupelo trees would require removal and she would like replacement trees planted. Coleman would like to see the grade adjusted to make sure the pitch is to the north, there is an area of debris that he would like removed and there is room to plant several blueberry bushes. **Motion to find a negative 3 determination by Ernie Crabtree and seconded by Mark Coleman. Motion approved unanimously.**

Discussion and Possible Vote

510 Pleasant Lake Avenue

Presenter: Al Borges

The homeowner removed trees and stumps, brought in about 10 yards of sand and installed a shed without approval. Usowski cannot recommend that the shed stay, but it was clear the trees were uprooted and she doesn't have much concern regarding the nourishment. An after-the-fact Administrative Review needs to be filed for the work. She will meet the owner on site to make sure the beach is not increasing in size and to discuss the beach slope to prevent erosion. Donovan would like to issue a \$300.00 fine and Chase agrees. It was noted that stumps are required to stay in order to hold sediment and possibly re-sprout. Pastuszak has an issue with the dock being able to be stored on the beach area because others are required to move them out of the buffer zone. Chase finds the nourishment concerning and would like the dock stored off the beach and the shed removed.

Motion by Brad Chase to require an after-the-fact Administrative Review, issue a fine of \$300.00 and require removal of the shed within 3 weeks and seconded by Carolyn O'Leary. Motion approved unanimously. Motion to not allow storage of the dock on the beach by Brad Chase and seconded by Stan Pastuszak. Coleman has no issue with the storage of the dock on the beach; Crabtree agrees. Pastuszak says the issue is with consistency in enforcing the regulations. **Motion approved 4-2 with Crabtree and Coleman against.**

11 River Pine Circle, Piling Repair

Presenter: Chris Barton

The existing pipes could not handle the depth of the water in that area and they would like to install pilings. He does not foresee any issues with navigation as it will not go further into the river than the existing float. Chase would like an RDA in order to have a comprehensive plan and narrative. Crabtree and Coleman view the project as minor and as long as a plan is submitted they have no issue with this being done on an AR. Usowski will provide the Commission with a plan once it is submitted and then the Commission can decide how to advance.

Management Plan for the Bogs at the Bells Neck Conservation Area: Chase would like to have a document put together so that it can be voted on. Donovan would like to the Conservation Department to be in control of the mowing. He likes the natural meadow that has formed and would like to keep that. He is concerned that if water was to flow that herring would get trapped. Crabtree is in favor of naturalizing the area. Coleman believes Mosquito Control should have main management of flow of water and that safety issues need to be resolved. He believes the area was too neglected over time to make it worth harvesting. Crabtree felt there wasn't enough interest and the economics were against keeping it an active bog. O'Leary does not believe keeping it an active bog is within the purview of the Commission. She agrees with maintaining public access and keeping up with safety issues and would like it naturalized to reduce complications and money spent. **Public Comment:** Alan Hall is curious if the vines could be salvaged and replanted on the adjacent property. The Commission is in favor of that. Hall says they could be planted next spring. He would like to take some vines this year and have them tested. Usowski stated an RFP would have to be done for the purchasing of the vines. Usowski suggested adding this to the existing Bells Neck Land Management Plan. Chase and Donovan can collaborate and provide that to staff to add to the LMP and then review and vote in the future. Usowski said during review it should be sent to other agencies such as DER and Mosquito Control.

Robbins Pond Conservation Area update:

Cement barricades were placed in the Robbins Pond area to deter vehicle access. Donovan would like more vigilance to keep people from using ATVs on the property.

Minutes

Motion to approve the April 15, 2020 minutes by Brad Chase and seconded by Ernie Crabtree. Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Brad Chase and seconded by Ernie Crabtree. Motion approved unanimously.

Minutes Transcribed by Nicole Smith, Assistant Conservation Agent.