

Conservation Commission  
Zoom Minutes December 7, 2021 9:00 AM  
Zoom: 999 7120 1112  
FINAL

Present for the Conservation Commission and attending the zoom call were: Chris Murphy (Chair), Pam Goff, Candy Shweder, Sandy Broyard, Joan Malkin, Russell Maloney, Sarah Khedouri and Doug West(alternates), and Kara Shemeth (staff).

Also in attendance: Reid Silva, Sheri Caseau, Rachel Sorentino, Peter Cook, Abby & Jonathan Lipnick, Doug Reece, Jo Keefe, Kathy Coe, Adam Turner, Matthew & Jessica Harris, Julie Pringle, Jeff Baker, Jane Wilkie, Leanne Cowley, Emma Green-Beach, Wendy Weldon, Mike Newbold, Laurisa Rich, Paul McManus, Barbara Lee, Zachery Lee, Doug Liman

Russell Maloney recused himself as he is an abutter to the Harris property. Chris Murphy appointed Doug West and Sarah Khedouri voting members for the duration of the days meeting.

**9:01 - Continued Public Hearing SE12-881**

Applicants: Jessica & Matthew Harris

Address: 277 North Road AP 14-9

Representatives: Reid Silva (Vineyard Land Surveying) and Jeffrey Baker (Architect)

Project: The applicant proposes to remove an existing guest house and shed and to construct and maintain an addition to an existing dwelling. Portions of the work will be largely within the buffer zone to a BVW, however all of the work will be located within currently cleared and maintained lawn area. A site visit took place Monday 11/1/21.

Reid presented a new plan with a shortened connector between the existing structure and the proposed structure. Since the previous meeting, Doug Cooper had been back out to the site and confirmed the wetland delineation was still accurate.

There was discussion regarding the wet meadow, Reid stated that there would be a detailed plant list of native species and a management plan was being developed. A letter from Landscape Architect Thomas Woltz was read into the record by Reid Silva as it had been submitted the night before the hearing and Commissioners had not had the chance to review it.

An existing well and its current state was discussed. It is currently dangerous and needs to be addressed immediately. Reid stated that a good solution would be to fill it in to 1' below grade and plant it in.

Conservation Commission  
Zoom Minutes December 7, 2021 9:00 AM  
Zoom: 999 7120 1112

**Action:** A motion was made to close the hearing.  
Passed unanimously by roll call vote

**Action:** A motion was made to approve the project as presented with the following conditions:

1. The applicant must provide a landscape plan and management plan for the wet-meadow and it must be approved by the Commission.
2. No work may be done in the wet meadow until the abovementioned plans are received and approved.
3. Steps to address the safety of the existing well are to be taken immediately.
4. No herbicides or other chemicals will be utilized in the wetland or 100' buffer zone.
5. The contractor is to meet on site with the Conservation Agent and review all aspects of the proposed work prior to work commencing.
6. Notification is to be given to the Conservation Agent when work is scheduled to begin.
7. A copy of this Order and the approved site, landscape and wet meadow management plans shall be available on site at all times while work is being done.
8. Fueling of any kind will take place outside the buffer zone.
9. This Order is valid for 3 years and may be extended upon a request from the applicant.

Passed unanimously by roll call vote

**Presentation:** Chilmark Ponds Report

Presenters: Rachel Sorrentino, PhD, Sheri Caseau, and Chris Seidel (MV Commission Cartographer)

The presenters gave an overview of the health of Chilmark and Menemsha Pond's and what the Pond Working Groups, organized by the MV Commission, have been working on over the past year. There are quality assurance protocols and standards in place for water testing, allowing the examination of trends and nitrogen fulgurations. The Ponds of the Vineyard website was shared as well as the presentation slides. The website shows the data collected and provides information about the ponds, cyanobacteria blooms and other pond related information. The full report should be drafted in January with a goal of the final report being available by the end of the summer 2023.

Conservation Commission  
Zoom Minutes December 7, 2021 9:00 AM  
Zoom: 999 7120 1112

**10:12 - Public Hearing SE12-883:**

Applicant: Douglas Liman

Address: 24 & 32/34 Blacksmith Valley Road APs 35 - 32&38

Representatives: Paul McManus, EcoTec, Inc.

Project: Phragmite Management

Paul McManus presented an aerial of the property showing the phragmite stand in question. This project was previously permitted and the Order expired, this is to continue the project of managing the phragmite, taking what was learned from the previously Order and adjusting the plan to reach the current proposal. The goal is to harvest the phragmite after the growing season and burn the remnants in place during burn season, with proper permissions from the Chilmark Fire Dept. The applicant would like to be able to plant appropriate native species to replace the phragmite as is possible.

There was discussion regarding the life cycle of phragmite and the best practices and timing for harvesting and burning.

**Action:** A motion was made to approve the project as presented with the following conditions:

1. The cutting of the Phragmite may occur annually between mid-July and October. Burning may occur annually during the winter in accordance with the approved burn season and other requirements of the Chilmark Fire Department.
2. Individual plants are to be cut approximately 10 cm (6 inches) from the soil surface. Cutting will be conducted with hand-carried tools, which may include individual bladed tools (e.g., machete, scythe) or motorized (e.g., hedge trimmer, chain saw). No large, mechanized equipment (e.g., tractor) will enter the wetland, although a walk-behind brush-hog may be used. Fueling of any kind will take place outside the buffer zone.
3. No herbicides or other chemicals will be utilized in the wetlands or 100' buffer zone.
4. In addition to the proposed cutting and burning of Phragmite, to the extent that conditions are suitable, the applicant may plant native species within the management area. This could include narrow-leaved cattail (*Typha angustifolia*) plugs and other herbaceous species which occur on the site (e.g., goldenrods – *Solidago* sp.) as well as woody species on the more elevated portions of the management area where the hydrology is deemed suitable, based upon comparison to nearby areas. All planted material will be limited to specimens certified by the supplier as being native to Massachusetts.

Conservation Commission

Zoom Minutes December 7, 2021 9:00 AM

Zoom: 999 7120 1112

5. Monitoring: Annual photographs of the management area and any additional identified areas will be compiled and will be sent to the Conservation Agent each year.
6. The contractor is to meet on site with the Conservation Agent and review all aspects of the proposed work prior to work commencing.
7. Notification is to be given to the Conservation Agent annually when work is scheduled to begin, when cutting is complete and when a burn permit is applied for.
8. A copy of this Order shall be available on site at all times while work is being done.
9. This Order is valid for 3 years and may be extended upon a request from the applicant.

Passed unanimously by roll call vote

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am

Respectfully submitted by Kara E. Shemeth, Conservation Agent

Materials Shared at Meeting:

Aerials of both Harris and Liman sites

Revised Harris Site Plan

Chilmark Ponds PowerPoint – MV Commission