

Conservation Commission
Zoom Minutes March 2, 2021 9:00 AM Town Hall
FINAL

Present for the Conservation Commission and attending the zoom call were: Chris Murphy, Chairman, Joan Malkin, Pam Goff, Sandy Broyard, Candy Shweder, Doug West, Russell Maloney, and Kara Shemeth. Reid Silva (VLS), Eunice Youmans (IGI), and Rebecca Haag (IGI) also attended. Bob Hungerford did not attend. ZOOM Meeting ID: 960 7177 3947

Mr. Murphy brought the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and asked for a rollcall of attendees (noted above).

The draft 2/19/21 meeting minutes were reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. A roll call vote passed the minutes by consensus.

Discussion: Mr. Murphy has suggested looking into the feasibility of a potential dune restoration project at the corner of the Menemsha Beach parking lot to help beef up the dunes due to trampling and walking. Kara will obtain pictures for next meeting and begin to research options for executing such project.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING NOI SE 12 - 869; REID SILVA FOR BENTAGROUND, LLC.; 22 Cove Road; AP 27.1-224: Eligible voters: Chris, Pam, Candy, Sandy, Doug, Russell, Joan: All voters are present and Mr. Murphy opened the continued hearing at 9:07 am.

Reid Silva explained that he had gone back to the architect and they have reduced the deck from 12' deep to 8' deep reducing the square footage from 240 square feet to 164 square feet. Reid Silva addressed the question regarding the necessity of the bathroom in the bedroom and explained that the homeowners are elderly and the bathroom is for their use.

Discussion: Pam Goff expressed concern about allowing the conversion of covered deck to living space, Reid Silva expressed the opinion that this project is unique because of the existing covered deck and that he doesn't anticipate projects like this coming before the Conservation Commission often.

Russell Maloney questioned how the proposed plan would negatively impact the resource to which Reid Silva expressed that while less activity near a resource is always better, this project won't negatively affect the resource and doesn't change the use or function of the existing structure.

Sandy asked to clarify that the bathroom would not require additional supports under the house and Reid Silva explained that the only additional piers are the three (3) proposed for the new deck. The bathroom utilized the existing structure and will not require additional supports. The hearing was closed at 9:21am.

ACTION: A motion was made to approve the plans as amended and presented with standard conditions and the following additional conditions:
-snow fence/siltation barrier to be installed prior to construction (as shown on the plan digitally during the hearing by R. Silva)

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-2'x 2' rocks placed 4' apart along wetlands near structure (as shown on plan digitally during the hearing by R. Silva)

- Revised plan showing snow fence/ siltation and stone placement to be submitted prior to start of work

- NO mowing, cutting, or trimming in any of the wetlands on the property or on the wetlands side of the placed stones.

The motion was seconded and passed with six (6) in favor and one (1) against (C. Murphy) via a roll call vote.

Discussion/ Presentation: Eunice Hillmans and Rebecca Hague gave presentation and discussion regarding island food waste, what can be done on island to build infrastructure and engage public and private sector.

Discussion: The Conservation Commission thanked Eunice and Rebecca for the presentation and offered recommendations of how to engage the public and municipalities in achieving their goals.

ADMINISTRATION:

Kara Shemeth brought up several topics for the Commission's consideration. The first was to allow her to sign on behalf of the Commission through the Covid era as had been in place for Chuck Hodgkinson. There are several Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissioners (MACC) seminars that would assist in her duties and allow her to complete a MACC certificate. She has taken several classes and needs 4 more to complete the certificate, at a cost of \$55/course (\$220). The third topic was a request for the Conservation Commission to approve funds for a smartphone for town use, allowing Kara to better document sites via photographs, time, date and location stamping. The cost to the Town/Conservation Commission would be \$50-\$60/month.

ACTION: A motion was made to approve the use of \$220 for 4 courses so Kara Shemeth can complete the MACC certificate.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously via a roll call vote.

ACTION: A motion was made to approve the expenditure to provide a town smartphone to the Board Administrator.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously via a roll call vote.

ACTION: A motion was made to authorize Kara E Shemeth as Administrator, to sign Orders of Conditions on behalf of the Chilmark Conservation Commission, subject to review of the Chair. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously via a roll call vote.

The next zoom meeting will be 3/16/21 @ 9:00 am.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Kara E. Shemeth, Board Administrator

*updated 4/2/21 to correct two last name spelling errors