



Meeting Minutes - Chilmark Conservation Commission
November 2, 2023 at 9 am via Zoom

Commissioners present: Candy Shweder (Chair), Sandy Broyard, Stephen Kass, Sarah Khedouri, Joan Malkin, Gary Motta, Jane Rabe

Commissioners absent: Chris Murphy

Staff: Adam Petkus (building inspector), Carolyn Stoeber

Public in attendance: Jane Greene, Reid Silva

The public meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Candy Shweder who appointed Jane Rabe as a voting member and then opened the public hearing.

Public Hearing - Notice of Intent SE12-917

Applicant: Susan B. Whiting

Address: 35 Old Fields Path (AP 16-7.2)

Representative: Reid Silva

Project: install and maintain proposed coir logs, coir fabric and plantings on a coastal bank

Site visit: October 31, 2023

Documents shared: site plan with detail of coir log installation, photos of coir log installation on Tashmoo Pond

Reid Silva described the process of installing the coir logs to protect the bank. The vulnerable bank will have three coir logs, but to minimize disturbance, if the bank has roots or other stabilization already in place, fewer logs will be used or the installers will work around the bank's existing stabilization. Switch grass and beach grass plugs will be planted on the bank above the coir log installation. The commissioners asked if alternative measures had been considered. Mr. Silva has seen jute netting and plantings as an alternative with very little success and as waves on the pond can be 3 feet high during a storm, plantings alone would not be effective in this area. The commissioners questioned whether there will be scouring at the sides of the installation. Mr. Silva recognized that hard structures can enhance erosion and deflect to the sides of the structure, but as this material will act more like a wet sock with material that will degrade and is not a vertical barrier, the wave deflection will be very minimal. The commissioners inquired how the coir logs will be delivered and what type of machinery will be used to install the logs. Mr. Silva responded that the coir logs can be carried down to the beach by two people and they will be installed using hand tools. In response to a question by the commission about what amount of slash will be removed or used to armor the bank, Mr. Silva's response was to remove a reasonable amount, taking away the slash in the way of coir log installation, but anything that has integrated into the bank, or could continue to be used as protection be left in place. The commissioners discussed whether approval of this project would set a precedent for everyone along the pond also installing coir logs on the bank. Mr. Silva said if everyone on the pond installed these erosion measures, it would not be detrimental to the ecology of the pond and continued to describe the natural life-cycle of a pond. When asked for public comments, Jane Greene stated, "I just think that it's a great idea. It's imperative that we protect the shore of the pond. We've already seen one house just about fall in. We don't need to see any more."

Action: At 9:24 am motion was made, and seconded, to close the public hearing. Passed unanimously.

Discussion: among commissioners included encouraging home owners to think about future managed retreat as they install interim protection measures. Each property is different and when peril is imminent retreat can



be required. There was also a desire to monitor the success of this project to identify the effectiveness of the project. Carolyn will include this property on a list of properties to revisit in two years.

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to approve with the usual conditions and additionally, only battery-powered hand tools be used. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

SE12-845 Extension

Applicant: Thomas and Amy MacIsaac

Address: 199 State Rd (AP 33-117)

Site visit conducted: October 16, 2023

One year extension – 11/13/24

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the one year extension to 11/13/24. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Certificate of Compliance SE12-839

Applicant: Kevin Oliver

Address: 139 Tea Lane (AP 3-1)

Mr. Silva suggested the pipe with runoff was due to the pressure of the water on Tea Lane creating an artesian well in this location, but Mr. Silva will confirm this is the case. The commission would like to review the property again at a future meeting when there is more information available.

The site visit for the Certificate of Compliance for SE12-566: Flanders – Tucker Trail (AP 33-57) will wait until the home owner is available to give specific directions.

Request for changing Order of Conditions

SE12-896

Applicant: Frank Sica

Address: 0 Gosnold Way (AP – 28)

The area of no clearing within 25 feet around the wetlands was to be marked with locust posts according to the Order of Conditions. The requested change was made for painted steel posts, but altered to unpainted rebar 3 – 5 feet above grade.

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to consider the change minimal and not require an amendment to the order of conditions and to approve the use of uncoated rebar to be installed 3 to 5 feet above grade. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Administrative approvals for reroofing at 18 Crick Hill Road, for re-shingling at 37 Larsen Lane, and for mowing around tennis courts at the Chilmark Community Center were presented to the commission.

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to ratify the administrative approvals presented.

21 Eliot Avenue was discussed and an RDA will be required for the screening project. At the time of application, the commissioners would like to remind the homeowners of perennial conditions from past Orders of Condition, including no use of fertilizers.



Planning Board survey question responses that the subcommittee worked on will be sent to the entire commission.

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes from June 1, 2023. Passed via roll call vote with Stephen Kass, Sarah Khedouri, Gary Mottau, and Jane Rabe abstaining.

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes from June 15, 2023. Passed via roll call vote with Stephen Kass, Joan Malkin, Gary Mottau, and Jane Rabe abstaining.

Action: A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes from October 5, 2023. Passed unanimously via roll call vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:28 am.

Respectfully Submitted by Carolyn Stoeber
Minutes to be approved at the 12/7/23 Conservation Commission Meeting