

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

Present for the Conservation Commission and attending the zoom call were: Chris Murphy, Chairman, Joan Malkin (arrived 9:28), Pam Goff, Sandy Broyard, Candy Shweder, Doug West (arrived 9:04) and Chuck Hodgkinson. Reid Silva, Thomas Bena, George Crawford, Tracey Smith, Kara Shemeth, Martina Mastro Monaco, Margaret Maida, Clarissa Allen, Allison Parry and Chris Caldwell also attended. Russell Maloney and Bob Hungerford did not attend. ZOOM Meeting ID: 94956452309.

Mr. Murphy brought the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and asked for a rollcall of attendees. At 9:04 AM he then appointed Alternate Commissioner Doug West as a voting member for the day's agenda. Mr. Murphy also introduced Ms. Shemeth to the Commission and explained she will replace Chuck H. when he retires. The Commission extended a warm welcome.

PUBLIC HEARING NOI SE 12 - 869; REID SILVA FOR BENTAGROUND, LLC.;

22 Cove Road; AP 27.1-224: Mr. Murphy confirmed all the Commissioners present are eligible voters and opened the public hearing at 9:15 am. Mr. Silva reviewed a google earth image of the site, a photo of the existing house and a site plan dated 12/21/20 to add a net total of 226 sq. ft. of decking and a bathroom addition. The bathroom adds 36 sq. ft.; 56 sq. ft. of decking will be removed and replaced with 246 sq. ft. of decking. All of the activity is within the 100-foot buffer zone of a Bordering Vegetated Wetland draining into Menemsha Pond. The closest activity is approximately 11.5 feet from the wetland edge.

The Commission asked about the staging area and where the siltation barriers would be placed. It also asked when the wetlands were flagged and what type of foundation will be placed under the above-ground bathroom extension over the deck. Mr. Silva explained the wetlands were flagged by Rusty Walton many years ago and added the bathroom extension will be supported by new pier supports—similar to those that are supporting the elevated deck.

After discussion the Commission thought it would prefer to make a site visit before acting on this proposal (the site visit was canceled due to snow). Mr. Silva agreed and requested a continuance to February 16 @ 9:15 am with a site visit for February 12 @ 9:00 am. A motion was made to grant the request. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with five in favor via a roll call vote.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING SE 12 – 867; REID SILVA FOR KEVIN AND

ELIZABETH OLIVER; 508 North Rd.; AP 27.1-52, 53: Ms. Malkin joined the meeting at 9:28 and Mr. Murphy opened the continued public hearing at 9:29 am. Mr. Silva explained the Commission asked him to re-notify abutters about the proposed increase in the scope of work to include the tear down and rebuild of the existing house and deck. The footprints of each will not change from what currently exists. He also was to add the staging area for this work and the location of the siltation barriers to the site plan. Mr. Silva explained he did not notify abutters with enough time before today's meeting and requested it be continued to February 16 at 9:25 am to provide the time to do so. A motion was made and seconded to grant the request. With no discussion the motion passed unanimously with six in favor via a roll call vote.

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PUBLIC MEETING RDA TRACEY SMITH FOR DAVID LEIBMAN; 34 Chilmark

Road; AP 1-14: Ms. Smith explained she is not prepared to pull up the site plan to the zoom screens to show the proposed installation of a new driveway within the 100 foot buffer zone of an isolated wetland. The closest activity is approximately 18 feet from the wetland edge. The Commission suggested continuing this discussion to the next meeting and re-scheduling the site visit to 2/12 @ 9:20 am. Ms. Smith agreed. A motion was made to continue this discussion to the next meeting as proposed. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with six in favor via a roll call vote.

DISCUSSION CHRIS CALDWELL; off Meetinghouse Rd.; AP 18-92.3: The Commission welcomed Ms. Caldwell to the meeting. Ms. Caldwell explained she is the new owner for two parcels off Meetinghouse Road one of which is under a Conservation Restriction (CR) that is managed by the Town (Map 18 Lot 92.3). This parcel has a CR under the previous owner (Coleman). Ms. Caldwell explained their plans to farm the property with ducks, goats and sheep. She explained how the land on the CR lot would be cleared while leaving in as many mature trees as possible and be used as grazing pasture. She added at a future date approximately 4-5,000 sq. ft. of the field would be planted as a garden but they first need to amend the soils with compost as they are not very good for this use at the moment. Ms. Goff mentioned this CR lot is high and dry and thought the proposed activities for farming as described are allowed and consistent with the terms of the CR. After brief discussion a motion was made to approve the planned farming activities for Map 18 Lot 92.3 as described as they are consistent with the terms and conditions of the CR. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously with six in favor.

DISCUSSION: LUCY VINCENT TRAIL: Ms. Mastromonaco summarized her letter dated 1/30/21 regarding the fence repairs and brush removal that was done on the west side of the walking path from the Lucy Vincent Beach parking lot. The Commission explained how any work done on the beaches is within its jurisdiction and asked that she inform the Conservation Agent of her desired maintenance work before the work is done. Ms. Mastromonaco agreed. The Commission also explained that the dead brush, detritus and vine growth is actually beneficial to the resource as it contains erosion during storm flood events and it should not be removed without prior consent.

ADMINISTRATION:

The draft 1/19/21 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.

The next zoom meeting will be 2/16/21 @ 9:00 am. The site visits will take place on 2/12/21 starting at 9:00 am.

With no further business to discuss the meeting adjourned at 9:41 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Chuck Hodgkinson, C.A.S.