

WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
September 9, 2008

**Present:** Prudy Burt Chair, Joanie Ames, Hadden Blair, Judy Crawford Dan Pace, Binnie Ravitch  
Tara Whiting and Maria McFarland

**Absent:** Peter Rodegast

**Also present for all or part of the meeting:** Bill Wilcox, Janet & Shelton Banks, Bob & Barbara Day, Marshall Segall, Shirley W. Mayhew, Phyllis Meras Croft, Bob Potts, Margaret Logue, Richard Knabel and Rez Williams

Prudy Burt called the meeting to order at 5:05 P.M.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August 26th meeting as revised. All in favor. Judy abstained.

**Map 22 Lots 22 and 24:** Continuation of a public hearing under the requirements of G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended and the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a **Notice of Intent** filed by Vineyard Land Surveying & Engineering, Inc. on behalf of Geoffrey Berresford, and the Trustees of the Ann Nelson Realty Trust owners of property located at 60 Littlefield Lane and 101 Old Court House Road for a limited project to repair an existing dam, install a new concrete sluiceway and dredge the pond. The applicant's representative has requested a continuance to October 14<sup>th</sup>. There will not be a quorum of members eligible to vote on this matter at the next meeting so a motion was made and seconded to continue this public hearing to November 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:10 PM subject to consent by the property owner's representative. All in favor.

**Mill Pond**

In response to a petition signed by concerned citizens, the Board of Selectmen responded by setting goals and objectives for a Mill Pond Committee and seeking volunteers to sit on the committee. In a letter to the Selectmen dated August 26<sup>th</sup> the Commission reviewed the Mill Pond study done by Aquatic Control Technology in 2007 and the current work on studying the Mill Pond and Mill Brook watershed being done by Bill Wilcox of the MVC in an effort to put off forming this committee as many of the goals and objectives had already been met or were in process.

Bill was present at today's meeting to review his current work on studying the Mill Brook watershed and on additional work that he could undertake.

Bill handed out a check list dated September 8, 2008 that outlined 1) information in hand or in process, 2) information that may be desirable and relatively simple to pull together and 3) information that may be useful but is more difficult to gather.

The first two categories cover work that the MVC is doing or can do in-house and can be paid for through the West Tisbury MVC budget. Some of the work outlined in category number 3 can be done by the MVC but two projects would require hiring an outside consulting firm because the MVC does not have a biologist on staff.

The work that would have to be outsourced includes the assessment of stream quality using assessment approaches like the Index of Biological Integrity, fish surveys and/or the Qualitative Habitat Evaluation Index. Stream bio-indicators would need to be examined to determine the type and number of sensitive insect indicators at a number of locations. This would require trained personnel with the necessary equipment. Also, a study of the American Brook Lamprey will most likely need to be done before any major work could be done in the pond or the brook. The Brook Lamprey is a threatened animal that may be a major hurdle of a dredging project. This would require an assessment by a trained biologist.

Bill said it was difficult to give a time frame but thought that it could take up to eighteen months to finish the research he is conducting. He added that there was no time frame for the Mass Estuaries report. Members of the public expressed concern over the long time frame.

After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the next steps would be taken in addition to Bill Wilcox continuing his work would be as follows:

- Maria will work with Jen Rand to prepare a preliminary application to the CPA committee for the two items outlined above that would require funding to hire an outside consultant.
- The Commission will contact Mike Syslo of the Division of Marine Fisheries to discuss evaluating the dams along the brook and the benefits of establishing fish ladders or ways.

**Open Space Plan:** The open space update subcommittee will begin meeting on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. Going forward meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays at 4:00PM

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland  
Board Administrator  
APPROVED