

**WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

October 27, 2009

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

**Absent:** Joanie Ames

**Also present for all or part of the meeting:** Simon Hickman and Dough Hoehn

Prudy Burt called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

The minutes of the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as corrected. Dan abstained.

**Map 3 Lot 73.1** - public meeting under the requirements of M.G.L. Ch.131 § 40, as amended and the West Tisbury Wetlands Protection Bylaw and regulations to consider a **Request for Determination of Applicability** filed by Simon Hickman on behalf of Jeremy Biggs for property owned by Mr. Biggs at **57 Lambert's Cove Road** to erect a shed within the last 20' of the buffer zone. Simon Hickman designed and will install the shed. He brought a mock up of the shed and the board viewed site visit pictures taken on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The work will be done by hand. The shed will be constructed off site and placed on sonotubes. There will be no plumbing. Electricity is already in place at the croquet court so the line will be extended to the shed. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to issue a **Negative Determination of Applicability**. The work may proceed without an Order of Conditions. The vote in favor was unanimous.

**Map 6 Lot 3 SE 79-240 Roberts/Meadow/Doug Hoehn:** Doug was present to ask the Commission if it was possible to sign off on this Order of Conditions and add a monitoring provision. Doug was told that the members can not add new conditions to an issued order and that once a Certificate of Compliance is issued it makes nonconformance an enforcement matter. The history of this project was restated. Approval was given to cut brush, remove selective trees and mow to encourage grasses. No soil disturbance was permitted. At the recent site visit on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, it became apparent that the soils had been disturbed and the roots systems for the shrubs removed. We could determine this because the 25' zone inland of the stone wall towards the "squash" barn has grown back beautifully; in that section, it would seem that a machine and rotovator were unable to get into the 25' zone because of the topography and number of trees. This soil disturbance, coupled with the unpermitted placement of wood chips in this area, has delayed the regrowth of native vegetation. There is still almost no vegetation in this 25' zone. A motion was made to deny the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance on this project. Maria will draft a letter to be sent to Aileen Roberts that is sympathetic to her desire to close out the paperwork on this project and explaining the board's reasons for not issuing the Certificate of Compliance at this time.

**Administrative:**

**MVC: Draft report dated October 20, 2009 on Agricultural Self-Sufficiency of Martha's Vineyard.** Most members had not had a chance to review the draft. Preliminary comments were that the report is baffling and readers were not sure what the upshot of the study is meant to be. In the section on the status of Farming on Martha's Vineyard it is clear that it is hard to get a

handle on how much land is actually in agricultural production and that perhaps this reflects on reporting or tabulation inconsistencies. In other words there is no way to know how much of farming on the Vineyard is a cash business and not reported. No action was taken.

**Agricultural Society Annual Meeting:** Prudy will attend the annual meeting of the Agricultural Society to speak about the need to use best management practices when farming near wetlands.

**Commission Chair:** A motion was made and seconded to reappoint Prudy Burt, chair of the Commission until the next appointment period in April 2010. All in favor.

There being no further business on the agenda, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland  
Board Administrator  
APPROVED