

WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

April 26, 2011

Present: Prudy Burt Chair, Joanie Ames, Whit Griswold, Nora Nevin, Binnie Ravitch, Peter Rodegast and Maria McFarland

Absent: Tara Whiting

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Kristen Fauteux and Reid Silva

The minutes of the April 13th meeting were approved with corrections. Whit and Peter abstained.

Map 5 Lot 1 and Map 13 Lots 4 & 5/SE 79-309: Continuation of a public hearing on a **Notice of Intent** filed by Sheriff's Meadow Foundation for the property known as Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary located at 200 Obed Daggett Road. The projects consists of work associated with implementing the management plan including restoration and habitat management, invasive species control and public access improvement consisting of trail and boardwalk maintenance. No testimony was given at the first hearing.

Prudy opened the public hearing. Kristen presented the project which represents work to be done at Cedar Tree Neck Sanctuary as outlined in the management plan for this property. The plan has been approved by Natural Heritage and Endangered Species.

For a detailed description of the proposed work, the project description is on file in the Commission office. An outline of the proposed work follows:

Parking lot:

- This work is in the Buffer Zone.
- Pruning and limbing to open a view for people who are unable to walk the trails.
- Placement of a bench overlooking the Neck.
- Work to control invasive species previously approved under an RDA will continue.
- Shrubs will be planted near the caretaker's house to provide privacy and to keep people from walking into the caretaker's house.
- The parking for the house will be relocated.
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White trail:

- Erosion issues at the beginning of this trail will be addressed.
- The end of the white trail as it exists on to the beach has become very narrow and entrenched.
- The sides of the trail will be cut away so people can walk without turning sideways.
- Log steps will be placed where needed to help walkers negotiate the grade changes and lessen erosion.
- Red Pine Plantation: Dead trees in this area will be dropped and left in place.
- Move trailhead away from caretaker's residence.

Red Trail:

- This trail is right off of the parking lot.

- Erosion issues will be addressed by repairing and elevating the boardwalk and adding water bars to the sides.
- Removal of excess sediment from the stream.
- Symbolic fencing and signage will be placed in areas where dune restoration is needed.

Purple Trail:

- The beech trees along this trail opposite the stream are being loved to death by visitors.
- Symbolic fencing around beech trees to prevent additional erosion.
- Remove excess sediment that has washed into the stream and use it to replenish area around beech trees.
- Landscaping fabric will be put down in the barren areas and moss, Clethra and other appropriate species will be planted around the roots of the trees.
- Install retaining wall to stop erosion from entering the stream.

Yellow Trail:

- A new boardwalk will be installed per the specs submitted and existing boardwalks maintained.
- An abandoned section of trail at the edge of Ames Pond will be restored.

Blue Trail:

- New trail that runs along the top of the coastal bank. It will be located outside of the 25 foot No-Disturbance Zone. A Gravelly will be used to remove the vegetation for the half mile trail. Symbolic fencing and signage will be placed to keep people from going over the bluff to the beach. Once the trail is cut in, view channels will be established.

The Neck:

- Sheriff's Meadow is working to develop a plan to remove the invasive species on the Neck and to restore the open character of the Neck by mowing, grazing or prescribed fire. Access to the neck makes it difficult to get equipment to this area. Possible ways to access the neck were discussed. Goats are another option under consideration. A prescribed burn is also a possibility. Six Japanese Black Pines will be removed from the Neck.

White Cedars: These trees are native to the Vineyard. SMF would like to attempt to reestablish a stand of these trees in an area with appropriate soil conditions. More details on this work will be submitted to the Commission for approval.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the project as presented and detailed in the project description. All in favor.

Discussion on Special Conditions:

- The framing for the boardwalks may be made from pressure treated wood. The decking shall be constructed of locust or other rot resistant wood. A pin foundation system will be used for the footings. A tarp must be used if cutting the wood on site to collecting sanding.
- The work on the Blue trail will be reviewed in one year.
- Sheriff's Meadow Foundation will come back to the board with a detailed plan for restoring the neck and the planting of the white cedar trees.
- Ongoing maintenance will be allowed without further approval of the Commission

A motion was made and seconded to approve the special conditions. All in favor.

Old Business

Map 22 Lots 22 & 24/SE 79-278: Reid Silva was present to talk about the blow-out of the new dam at Berresford's caused by the April 13th rain storm that dropped 4-5 inches of rain on the Vineyard. Reid submitted pictures of the property on the day of the storm. Maria had pictures from the day after the storm.

To do the repair, the stop logs will be removed to lower the water level to the bottom of the rocks that comprise the dam. Tailings and hardener will be added. Once the repair work is done, the level of the water will be brought back up but will be kept lower than it was before the storm. There is also an area on the other side of the culvert that has slumped and needs to be repaired.

Reid will shoot the final grade of the dam. Reid said that they didn't take the friction of the water into consideration when repairing the dam. A bench mark will be chiseled into the culvert to indicate the top of the water level of the pond. John Keene is away so the work will not be done until some time in May. Reid will submit a copy of the final water quality certification information which will be shown on the as-built plan that is required by DEP and the Order of Conditions.

Map 18 Lot 1/Greenlands: Prudy and Maria reported on their walk with Greenlands neighbor, Steve Maxner and Bill Veno of the Land Bank to view the evidence of dirt bike use on the trails. There is a town bylaw prohibiting motorized recreational vehicles on private ways and town owned property without written permission. The management plan for Greenlands allows passive recreation such as bicycling, walking, birding, and horse back riding. Members discussed ways to get the word out about this issue. Maria will call Chief Rossi, contact the West Tisbury column writers and speak to Jen Rand about putting this on the Selectmen's meeting agenda.

Map 1 Lot 33 50/SE79-171/ Berlin: Reid wanted to know if the Board wanted him to start submitting his monitoring reports in the same format that the Woods Hole Group is using for the Sundin revetment. He said that he has been doing a full survey of the topography of beach each time he does a profile at Berlin's. He doesn't think the Woods Hole group is doing the same at Sundins. He thinks they are just recording the level of sand at each benchmark. Maria will speak to Leslie Fields at the Woods Hole Group to see if they are doing the survey of the beach each time they take the measurements.

Administrative:

Correspondence:

In: Map 8 Lot 1/SE79-203: Copy of Adjudicatory Appeal to DEP

There being no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED