

WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 28, 2011

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

Absent: Joanie Ames

Also present for all or part of the meeting: William Waterway, Steve Maxner, Richard Knabel, Cynthia Mitchell, Skip Manter, Sergeant Matt Bass, Chief Dan Rossi, Bill Veno and Tatina Schlossberg

Please note that the following minutes are general in nature. For more detail, a tape recording of this meeting is available at the Commission office.

The minutes of the June 14th meeting were approved as corrected. Whit and Peter abstained.

Old Business:

Map 1 8 Lot 1/Greenlands/Dirt Bikes: The Board of Selectmen was present to hold a joint meeting with the Commission for a discussion with William Waterway and Steve Maxner.

Prudy opened the conversation by saying that at no time has the Commission authorized dirt bikes in Greenlands and that the trails are for passive recreation only.

Prudy asked if the Friends of the Greenlands are a neighborhood group. Steve said it was more an island wide group of people concerned with water quality and the preservation of Greenlands.

Sergeant Bass of the MA Environmental Police was present to explain the State laws regarding dirt bikes and other off road motorized vehicles. He said the property does not need to be posted. He and Chief Rossi emphasized that the neighbors need to call the Communications Center and the Environmental Police while the activities are taking place. This will create a log and pattern of activity. Also, this will give the police a better idea of how big the problem actually is. The Environmental Police have full authority to patrol and ticket riders in Greenlands. It is a traffic violation so the local police can also write tickets for the state fines as well as a ticket under the Town bylaw. Matt said they have not received many complaint calls to date.

The discussion centered on the letter from the Friends of the Greenlands dated June 23, 2011 which contained an outline of 10 action items, the responsible group and timelines. Steve said the letter was more of a working draft.

Issues discussed:

- 1) Signs: Steve brought a prototype of the sign they would like to post. The cost of the signs will be paid for by the Friends. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that signs would be placed at the following 5 locations;
 - the plaque on Great Plains Road,
 - north of the plaque at the point where Checama Path enters the Greenlands property,
 - the lower corner of Great Plains Road,

- the 4 town bound, and
- at the road to the Oak Bluffs water company property.

The wording on the signs will be determined by the Police Chief and Mr. Maxner.

- 2) Town Bylaw: A town bylaw prohibiting motorized vehicles on town owned or private property without the property owner's permission has been on the books since 1986. The State fines are much stiffer at \$250 for the first offense and \$1,000 for the second offense plus seizure of the bike. The town fines are \$25.00 and \$50.00. Both Skip Manter and Dan Rossi said that they like the flexibility of being able to write a ticket under the bylaw as an educational tool or a state ticket if the situation warrants it. No action will be taken filing a warrant article to increase the fines under the town bylaw. The Environmental Police would not enforce the town bylaw. Skip added that a town bylaw fine cannot exceed \$300.
- 3) Surveillance cameras: The Chief has ordered a game camera for installation at a site to be determined. The photos are date and time stamped which will help to establish when the riders are going through.
- 4) List of registered motor cross bikes: Motor vehicle records are not public documents. Most dirt bikes are not licensed. No action will be taken.
- 5) Creation of Island wide selectmen's committee on protection of the Greenlands aquifer: Cindy Mitchell offered to propose this matter as an agenda item on the fall meeting of the All-Island Selectmen.
- 6) Letter to local papers: The Commission will work on a press release or an op-ed piece for the papers.
- 7) Educational Station: Steve Maxner will work with the Land Bank staff to create something to place at the trailhead. The Commission would like to review the materials to be posted.
- 8) Repair of damage to trails: Cindy Mitchell proposed that the Land Bank work to remove stumps, roots and rocks on the paths. Bill Veno and Matthew Dix will work on making the trails safer to walk.
- 9) Creation of a cash fund: Money for the management of Greenlands is funded from the Conservation Fund. Monies spent require Town Meeting approval. Dan Rossi was asked about putting a summer officer at Greenlands. Dan said he couldn't guarantee how many hours they can dedicate to patrolling the property but that they will do so as time, budget and other events allow. Dan also said that JJ Mendez is working with Sean Flynn on getting approval to use the steamship authority lot at the airport business park.
- 10) Map of Greenlands trails. Steve has someone who is willing to take some aerial photographs once the foliage season is over.

William Waterway said that the trails should be abandoned because they cannot be monitored. The management plan clearly allows the Commission to place and maintain trails. It was explained that under the terms of the self-help agreement, the town is required to provide public access for passive recreation.

Map 36 Lot 1 /SE79-311: Members reviewed and revised the draft special conditions. Information from Matthew Dix is required to finish these conditions. This matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Map 11 Lot 36/SE 79-306: continuation of the public hearing on a **Notice of Intent** to construct a driveway over a vegetated wetland in order to access a residential building site. George Sourati submitted a revised Notice of Intent and project plan that incorporates most of the recommendations that the LEC Environmental consultant, Mark Manganello, set forth in his report dated May 16, 2011.

The applicant's representative requested a further continuance of the public hearing on this matter to July 26, 2011 at 5:10 PM. George Sourati contacted the office to say that he had consulted with someone regarding the issue of how to determine the limits of the land subject to flooding but had not had time to review this person's report. He would not provide the Commission with any further details

A motion was made and seconded to grant a continuance of this public hearing on this matter to July 26, 2011 at 5:10.PM. All in favor.

Administrative:

Storm Smart Coasts Proposal: The members briefly discussed the summary of this joint project between the MVC and Coastal Zone Management dated June 14, 2011. A motion was made and seconded to write a letter of support for the Storm Smart Coasts Proposal. The letter was read for the record. All in favor.

Map 35 Lot 3.4/ Shellfish propagation project update has not been received yet.

There being no other business on the agenda, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED