

WEST TISBURY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 10, 2011

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

Absent: Joanie Ames and Tara Whiting

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Doug Cooper

The minutes of the April 26th meeting were approved with corrections.

Map 11 Lot 36/SE 79-306: continuation of the public hearing on a Notice of Intent to construct a bridge and driveway over a vegetated wetland in order to access a residential building site. A motion was made and seconded to continue the public hearing on this matter to May 24, 2011 at 5:10 PM because the consultant's report was not finished and George Sourati of Sourati Engineering, the applicant's representative was unable to attend the meeting and requested a continuance. All in favor.

It was noted for the record that LEC Environmental submitted a draft report. The draft report was not discussed. Maria has submitted corrections and additions to the report. A final report will be issued and sent to the applicant's representative.

Map 1 Lots 17 & 63: a public meeting under the requirements of 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 Cooper Environmental Services on behalf of Barbara Kravitz owner of property located at 104 & 126 Naushon Ave. The project consists of topping approximately six feet from the tops of 50-60 trees to create a view channel within the Buffer Zone and Bordering Vegetated Wetland.

Doug presented the property owners plan to top the trees blocking the view from her second floor deck. Doug submitted a DEP field Bordering Vegetated Wetland Delineation Field Data Form. The dominant species making up 65 % the canopy is red maple (*Acer rubrum*). The remaining trees are Willow (*Salix sp.*) 20%, Black Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) 10%, and Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*) 5%. Most of the trees stand 30 to 40 feet high. Doug said that some of the trees to be topped have been topped before.

This work is in a bordering vegetated wetland so this work is not exempt under 310 CMR 10.02 (2)(b) 1.d. Vista Pruning is defined as the selective thinning of tree branches or understory shrubs to establish a specific "window" to improve visibility. The leafy canopy can not be reduced to less than 90% of the existing crown cover..." Mowing or removing the understory brush is not proposed. Doug said the proposed work would not reduce the canopy below the threshold.

Issues discussed:

- Opening up the canopy to more light will degrade the habitat further by allowing invasive species to grow.
- More information is needed about the technique that would be used to top or limb the trees as some methods are more harmful to the tree than others. More details are needed about how the work would be accomplished as heavy equipment can not be used in the wetland.

- The proposed view channel is too wide. The applicant could achieve the desired view by narrowing the scope of the work.

After discussion a motion was made and seconded to issue a **Positive Determination of Applicability** because the proposed activities are within a Bordering Vegetated Wetland, the view channel is too wide and the method of limbing/topping the trees was not submitted. The applicant may file a Notice of Intent in order for the Commission to make a decision on this project. All in favor.

Old Business

Map 18 Lot 1/Greenlands: Maria reported that John Alley put a few words in his column reminding people that there is no dirt bike riding in Greenlands. Maria spoke to Matt Bass of the Environmental Police and also to Chief Rossi. Both said that they would be happy to respond to calls from neighbors but that they need to be called promptly. The Land Bank has been contacted for help with signs.

Administrative:

Map 39 Lots 10 & 11/ Edens: Rubin & Rudman legal bill dated May 6, 2011 in the amount of \$608.25 was approved for payment by the Selectmen.

Town Map: Whit suggested that a map of the Town on the wall in the conference room would be very useful. Maria will ask Jen if one can be hung. If yes, she will see if Chris Seidel of the MVC can map a topographic map.

Brandy Brow: A work day will be held on Saturday May 14th to clear some downed tree limbs and do some fence mending. The highway dept will be asked to pick up the limbs.

A letter from Rez Williams was discussed. Maria was instructed to write a response stating the following:

- The Commission would entertain a written proposal for a path through Brandy Brow.
- A unpaved path will require the approval of the heirs of Edwin (Bob) Woods.
- The Selectmen would handle the negotiations for an easement over the Wells/Waldron property as there is no safe way to exit Brandy Brow onto State Road.

Correspondence:

In: Letter from Rez Williams dated May 5, 2011 re: Brandy Brow

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

Respectfully submitted,

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator
APPROVED