

Approved
Wellfleet Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes
December 4, 2019
Town Hall Meeting Room

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TOWN CLERK
TOWN OF WELLFLEET

Attendees: Deborah Freeman, John Portnoy, John Cumbler, Michael Fisher, Agent Hillary Greenberg-Lemos, and Committee Secretary Christine Bates

Regrets: Barbara Brennessel

4:00 - Business Meeting & Conservation Agent's Report

DPW – discussion regarding Gull Pond Road. No representative from the DPW came to the meeting. This will be added to the agenda for December 18, 2019.

Natural Resource Advisory Board: John Riehl stated there is an issue of concern regarding the need to write the 3rd Harbor Management Plan which will be presented at the Town Meeting. He stated they would like a shorter, sharper action recommendations. The 2nd Harbor Management was produced approximately 13 years ago. He asked the Commission for any recommendations for topics and concerns. Deborah Freeman stated she has a concern about the erosion of the shoreline and the rising sea levels and how current structures and any new building may cause a detriment to the shoreline. John Riehl stated the Shellfish Advisory Board is also interested in this. Mr. Riehl said the upper Herring River culverts are not being addressed by the Restoration Committee. The Fresh Brook culvert has a spillway that blocks the native brook trout run. Portnoy stated that a recent hydrodynamic study showed that cold-water trout habitat could be restored by simply removing the elevated spillway, but no action has been taken. Mr. Riehl stated there is a possibility of restoring salt marsh in the eastern portions of Blackfish Creek; however, it requires extensive work replacing the culvert under Route 6. Michael Fisher stated if there are changes to the by-laws, some of these issues would be beneficial to the Town. John Cumbler stated some group needs to look at the sand renourishment and the impact to the shoreline. He also expressed concern with the nitrates in the harbor. Mr. Riehl stated he attended a meeting with the Wastewater Committee. John Cumbler suggested adding the nitrate issue to the management presentation. John Portnoy stated if the site is appropriate, salt marsh restoration could work in place of sand renourishment. Deborah Freeman asked John Riehl to send a copy of the existing Harbor Management Plan to Agent Greenberg-Lemos who will distribute it to the Commission. There are several articles on the Town Website. There was discussion regarding dredging the harbor and the black mayonnaise, i.e. muck in deep basins.

Portnoy summarized the Comprehensive Wastewater Planning Committee meeting on 2 December 2019. The Committee discussed with consultant Scott Horsley the information needs for the town's Watershed Plan to obtain a Watershed Permit from MA DEP. Duck Creek and Chipman's Cove have the greatest needs for nitrogen-loading reduction. Herring River requires least nitrogen-loading reduction.

Alternatives systems for nitrogen loading are allowed by DEP, but must be proven effective; meanwhile, the town must have a conceptual plan for sewerage and an acceptable site for a sewage treatment plant as backup. It would only need to be built if alternatives fail to achieve water-quality goals. The committee is currently looking primarily at the transfer station land as a site to treat about 400,000 gallons/day of sewage. There are concerns for possible effects on Herring River, since groundwater discharges in that direction.

Currently marketed innovative (IA) septic systems, typically with enhanced denitrification, are only 25-50% more effective in removing nitrogen than conventional Title V systems. New IA systems under development remove about 85% of the nitrogen in sewage.

Scott described permeable reactive barriers that intercept and remove nitrogen along a groundwater flow path before discharge to surface waters. These also are experimental at this time.

Stormwater contributes ~10% of the nitrogen load to the harbor.

Shellfish that are harvested are automatically credited for the nitrogen removed with their harvest, but the nitrogen removed by microbial denitrification in oyster beds has to be demonstrated here. The same is true for salt marsh restoration.

The town's Watershed Plan may be ready in six months, leading eventually to a Watershed Permit from DEP.

The Commission will discuss the Draft DLTA bylaws at the December 18, 2019 meeting.

Mail / Discussion – no mail

Jurisdictional Opinions

31 East Commercial St., tree emergency: a tree was removed and was flush cut. John Cumbler moved to approve the Jurisdictional Opinion; seconded by John Portnoy; passed 4-0.

280 Brown Neck's Road, 1 pitch pine tree, leaning towards the house, site visit was made, Michael Fisher recused himself. The Jurisdictional Opinion will be addressed at the December 18, 2019 meeting due to no quorum.

Meeting Minutes: to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Public Servant, Greg Berman, will provide advice to the Commission regarding when sand renourishment is required.

The asphalt was removed by AmeriCorps at the town landing at the end of Chequessett Neck Road.

5:00 pm PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Town of Wellfleet, Maps 41 and 42, NOI, repave Lt. Island Road from Rte 6 to Catboat Road, catch basins to be removed and replaced with deep sump pumps with heads (Cont'd).

There was no representative from the DPW Department. Deborah Freeman moved to continue to December 18, 2019; seconded by John Portnoy; passed 4-0.

Latanzi, 25 Crest Ave., Map 35, Parcel 88, NOI, remove invasive black locust from coastal bank, remove 9 heavily pruned oaks, install dry well, and plant native shrubs. The applicant requested a continuation. John Cumbler moved to continue to December 18, 2019; seconded by John Portnoy; passed 4-0.

Sarazin, 15 Springline Dr., Map 29, Parcel 258, RDA, construct 10' x 12' shed to side of main/front house. Michael Fisher recused himself. Ms. Sarazin stated the shed will be used for storage. There will be no electric or water and the shed will be placed on cinder blocks. Due to a lack of quorum, John Cumbler moved to continue to December 18, 2019; seconded by John Portnoy; passed 3-0.

SLA Nominee, 1005 Chequessett Neck Rd., Map 19, Parcel 94, NOI, Proposed replacement of an existing coastal engineering structure (Cont'd). At the request of the applicant, John Portnoy moved to continue to December 18, 2019; seconded by Michael Fisher; passed 4-0.

Michael Fisher moved to adjourn at 5:17 pm; seconded by John Portnoy; passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Bates".

Christine Bates, Committee Secretary

