

GOSNOLD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
June 13, 2022
10:30 am via Zoom and in person at Town Hall

Present:

Conservation Commission: David Warr, Chairman; Wyatt Garfield, Leo Roy, Lisa Wright

Also in Attendance: Gail Blout

The meeting of the Town of Gosnold Conservation Commission (GCC) was called to order by Chairman David Warr at 10:35 am.

1. Approval of May 13, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Wy Garfield made a motion to accept the May 13, 2022 meeting minutes as written and distributed. Leo Roy seconded the motion. All four GCC members voted yes. The motion carried.

2. Review Open Projects

Chairman David Warr opened the meeting with a question about the status of the cleanup of the former fuel farm site by R.M. Packer Company. Lisa Wright replied that Mr. Packer's barge had brought a truck and two empty dumpsters for soil removal, and that she understood that Don Lynch had been hired as the contractor to do the excavation. Mr. Warr said that he wanted to develop a list of those projects that were lacking Certificates of Compliance, so that we could make sure that projects were properly closed out. Mr. Roy said that he knew that the Harbor Committee needed a Certificate for the Town Dock project. Mr. Warr agreed, saying that the Town should set a good example of compliance for others. Mr. Warr said that he would follow up on the three letters seeking compliance from Cuttyhunk homeowners that were sent out last year.

3. Complete Order of Conditions for: Naushon Barn Project and Cuttyhunk Fuel Farm

Chairman David Warr said that he had circulated the draft Order of Conditions for the Naushon Trust Community Stable project, and asked if there were any questions or edits. Hearing none, he said that we could accept and sign it. He said that he would be arriving on Cuttyhunk for the summer on Friday, and could sign it then. Mr. Garfield said that he was also arriving on Friday and could sign. Mr. Roy said that we only needed three signatures, so that trying to get his was unnecessary. Ms. Wright said that once it was signed on Friday, she would send it out by Certified Mail.

Mr. Warr apologized for the delay in preparing the Order of Conditions for the new Fuel Farm project, saying that he hoped to complete the draft in the next few days. He said that the order was pretty straightforward, except for the language on how to protect the tanks from the solid waste containers next door at the Transfer Station in the event of a major storm.

4. Old Business/ New Business/ Public Comment

Under Public Comment Selectboard Member Gail Blout reported that she was preparing a Notice of Intent for the Coast Guard Boathouse Visitors Center project as requested by Chairman David Warr, and hoped to submit it early next week. Mr. Roy questioned why a Notice of Intent was required, because all work was being done on the building, not on the site, so there should be no impact to protected resources. He noted that site work, including the modification to the fence, new landscaping, and the new Public Toilet building had been included in a previous filing by the Town. He said that if we required a filing for the Coast Guard Boathouse repairs, a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) should be sufficient. Chairman Warr asked Ms Blout if a Building Permit was needed for the work, and she replied in the affirmative. Mr. Warr said that he would be fine with the submission of an RDA if the Building Inspector agreed. Mr. Roy reported that he understood that the Naushon Trust would also be submitting an RDA for the repair of an existing and licensed stone pier and wall before our next meeting.

Under Old Business Mr. Roy suggested that perhaps at our next meeting we could conclude our work on the General Provisions for Incidental Repairs that we started last year. He said he would circulate the latest draft to the Commission members.

Under New Business Chairman Warr noted that the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) had installed a sign on Barges Beach restricting vehicular access, and had sent out a notice to that effect to the community. Gail Blout said that she understood that despite the sign, someone had driven a vehicle out on the beach, disturbing the Piping Plover and Least Tern habitat. She said that Ian Walsh, the BBC's Island Manager, was planning to speak to the Selectboard about it, to send a strong, unified message that such behavior was unacceptable. Mr. Roy stated that if the Massachusetts Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that there was a "take" of a protected species or disruption of habitat, it could result in a serious fine to the individual responsible, up to \$25,000 per occurrence. He said that this was a serious matter. Chairman Warr noted that the GCC held a Conservation Restriction on Barges Beach, and that perhaps we should join any communication from the Selectboard and BBC condemning the injury to the bird habitat.

Wy Garfield asked if signs could be put up on Church's Beach to prohibit driving on the dunes, and could BBC help with that. Mr. Warr said that Church's Beach was owned by the

Town, and managed by the Selectboard. Mr. Garfield reported that he noticed a collection of pallets on the beach, which he assumed was in preparation for a bonfire. He said that the BBC needed to establish rules around bonfires on Barges Beach. Ms. Blout said that there used to be a free application to have a bonfire, and that the Fire Chief should review and approve any bonfires, with the name of the applicant in case the site needed cleanup afterwards.

Chairman David Warr suggested Friday, July 8 at 10:30am by Zoom and in person for our next meeting.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leo P. Roy

Minutes approved September 9, 2022