

Location: Rockport Town Hall, Meeting Room A

Present: Larry Neal/Chairman, Alan MacMillan, David McKinnon, MaryAnn Lash, Mel Michaels/Associate Member, Andrea Nichols/ Secretary, GERALYN Falco/Conservation Agent. The Rockport Conservation Commission (RCC) is a four-member volunteer board. Four voting members are present.

Middle School Student presentation – Andrew Topouzoglou presents his 8th grade science project “WE NEED TO PROTECT THE NATIVE ROCK CRAB”; RCC applauds Andrew for excellent presentation.

Citizen Inquiries

Tim Olson (DPW), Mill Pond – tells RCC that water level in pond is low and boards are not secure enough to hold back water; suggests putting epoxy between granite and boards to fill in gaps/provide more effective seal; asks if this is maintenance issue or needs permit. Mr. MacMillan moves to allow DPW to secure boards; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.

Ted Tarr, 154 Main Street - is concerned about removing oak tree at Wharf Road.

Sidney Wedmore, Thacher Island Committee - submits “Plans & Description of Barn at Straitsmouth Island Light Station”; explains that Thacher Island Committee hopes to rebuild barn; barn is 65-80 feet to coastal bank and is within FEMA flood plain; foundation to be 16 sonotubes on same footprint. RCC recommends RDA filing for this project.

David Gibbons, 60 Marmion Way - asks to trim bushes in wetland to 6 feet high (as approved 3 years ago); also asks to remove 2 dead trees. Discussion ensues about tree removal; RCC suggests replacing removed trees with new native trees. *Frank Simmons, 62 Marmion Way* - applauds tree replacement. Chairman Neal moves to allow vista pruning only (no tree removal without plan for tree replacement); Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.

Stewardship

Letters from public - Agent Falco reads two (2) letters from public (Marjorie Squire & Gloria M. Leone); these ladies suggest names for conservation land at end of South Street. RCC to discuss at next meeting.

Minutes

06/15/16: Mr. MacMillan moves to approve minutes as written; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.

06/15/16 (Executive session): Mr. MacMillan moves to approve minutes as written; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.

New Hearings

RDA 16-06, Mark S. Littlefield, 1 Meadow Road, 5 Cathedral Avenue (Map 16/Lot 22).

Replace damaged stone porch with deck within 100’ of coastal bank. Mark Littlefield is present and makes presentation; explains that no digging to take place; bottom rock/ledge to stay in place and deck to be attached to it; work is 60’ from coastal bank. RCC sees no environmental impact. Mr. MacMillan moves to close hearing; Mrs. Lash seconds. Vote 4:0. Mr. McKinnon moves to grant negative determination, category number 3 with conditions; Mr. MacMillan seconds. Vote 4:0.

Hearing is closed. The digital voice recording of this hearing will be retained until all appeal periods have passed and all appeals resolved.

RCC discuss fence installed within 100' to coastal bank on this Cathedral Avenue property. Mr. Littlefield says that owners replaced old fence in same location and did not know it needed RCC permit. RCC finds fence location more environmentally favorable. Mr. MacMillan moves to send a letter to the owner saying that this application is approved. Mr. Neal seconds. Vote: 4:0.

NOI 62-0730, Marcie Behman, 144 Long Beach (Map 25/Lot 43). *Construct deck on barrier beach.* William Manuell (Wetlands & Land Management, Inc.) is present for applicant and makes presentation; Enforcement Order in place for illegal deck (deck removed from sand); applicant wants to change plan (put deck back on sand, away from cottage); new deck to be more substantial (no plans show this) RCC concerns are seeing details of changes suggested; feels deck attached to cottage may be more stable; deck so close to sidewalk. Mr. Manuell requests that hearing be continued until August 17, 2016. Hearing is continued. **The digital voice recording of this hearing will be retained until all appeal periods have passed and all appeals resolved.**

Enforcement Order (REO 16-02), Frank & Jeanne Muzio, 75 South Street (Map 27/Lot 10B). *Cutting vegetation within a Bordering Vegetated Wetland without a permit.* (Violator requested postponement until August 3, 2016). Nobody is present for violator. RCC reviews Enforcement Order (EO). Chairman Neal moves to ratify EO; Mr. MacMillan seconds. Vote 4:0.

Continued Hearings

NOI 62-0729, Shaun & Bonnie McConnon, 20 Longbranch Avenue, (Map 15/Lot 121A). *Construct additions to house within 100' of coastal bank.* William Manuell (Wetlands & Land Management, Inc.) is present for applicant and discusses site visit; shows revised plan with only one propane tank and AC condensers. Mr. MacMillan moves to close hearing; Mrs. Lash seconds. Vote 4:0. **Hearing is closed. The digital voice recording of this hearing will be retained until all appeal periods have passed and all appeals resolved.**

Review OC

NOI 62-0729, Shaun & Bonnie McConnon, 20 Longbranch Avenue, (Map 15/Lot 121A). Mr. MacMillan moves to issue OC as written; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.

Other Business

- Minor Amendment Mill Pond (DEP 62-0724) – Tim Olson (DPW) requests minor amendment to extend stone pond bank as shown on revised plan. Mr. MacMillan moves to allow minor amendment as proposed; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.
- Front Beach Access (DPW) - Tim Olson explains work at Front Beach; includes granite steps, granite sitting area and drinking fountain/footbath. RCC recommends salt tolerant grass in area. Chairman Neal moves to approve Front Beach restoration work as proposed; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.
- Millbrook Wellhead Maintenance Protocol –The Agent reports that Chris Martin (DPW, Water Division) uses organic herbicides that includes citric acid; suggests adding wording to protocol

to clarify RCC's intent. RCC discuss well field area; suggest that DPW not allowing field to be overgrown; to write letter DPW and discuss maintenance plan for area.

- Minor Amendment: Coastal knotweed removal (RDA 12-07) – Nan Blue (Rockport Garden Club) is present and requests adding two (2) residents (64 Marmion Way & 4 Gap Road) to RDA -07; paperwork has been submitted. Chairman Neal moves to allow minor amendment; Mr. MacMillan seconds. Vote 4:0.
- Swallowwort at Headlands and Atlantic Avenue - Nan Blue (Rockport Garden Club) asks for \$125 to hire professional herbicide application; explains how invasive plant affects monarch butterflies. RCC suggests picking seed pods to halt expansion of invasive. Chairman Neal moves to approve spending \$125for removal of swallowwort; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.
- **Request for Certificate of Compliance, NOI 62-0657, Jeff Tripp, 37 Squam Road (Map 4/Lot 2A).** Chairman Neal moves to issue CoC; Mrs. Lash seconds. Vote 4:0.
- New Business/Announcements: Chairman Neal moves to add discussion of following items to agenda; Mr. MacMillan seconds. Unanimous affirmative roll call: Mr. MacMillan, Mr. McKinnon, Mrs. Lash, Chairman Neal.
 - **Request for Certificate of Compliance, NOI 62-0435, Gregory Rogers, 89 Thatcher Road (Map 25/Lot 84).** Chairman Neal moves to issue CoC; Mr. MacMillan seconds. Vote 4:0.
 - **Request for Certificate of Compliance, NOI 62-0478, Gregory Rogers, 87-89 Thatcher Road (Map 25/Lot 84A).** Chairman Neal moves to issue CoC; Mr. MacMillan seconds. Vote 4:0.
 - Agent Falco on vacation July 25-29, 2016.

Chairman Neal moves to adjourn the meeting; Mr. McKinnon seconds. Vote 4:0.

9:14 PM

RCC ► Meeting adjourns at 9:14 PM ◀ RCC