



MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

CONSERVATION COMMISSION • TOWN HALL
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Telephone (978) 526-4397 FAX (978) 526-2001

Conservation Commission Meeting

February 19, 2019

Town Hall, Room 5 ♦ 6:30 PM

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Members Present: Steve Gang, Steve Jaworski, Olga Hayes, Sari Oseasohn, David Lumsden, Henry Oettinger and Conservation Agent, Chris Bertoni.

Members Absent: Joe Puopolo

Conservation Chairman Mr. Gang opened the meeting at 6:30 pm under the Wetlands Protection Act and Town by-law. He announced that it was being recorded by the Commission for purposes of preparing minutes.

II. Guest Presentation – Phil Colarusso, Ecology of Seagrass Meadows

Phil Colarusso has a PhD in Marine Biology and works for the U.S. EPA where a prominent part of his work regulation, restoration and research of eelgrass. He presented the Commission with a PowerPoint that outlined the benefits of eelgrass, its habitat, and threats. He suggested that one of the ways it could be locally managed is to list performance standards with eelgrass in the local regulations and work with the Harbormaster to have no anchor zones and reduce boat capacity in eelgrass areas. He feels a compromise with boaters might be to put a mooring outside Sand Dollar Cove where boaters would still have access to the sand bar but also protect the eelgrass area in the cove. He also feels education to boaters about how they impact the environment may be helpful and maybe zone off areas with eelgrass and see what happens.

III. Requests for De Minimis Change

27 Proctor Street, Michael Comb – Seawall repair and repointing

New

DEP File #39-0773

Tyler Ferrick of DeRosa Environmental presented. An Order of Conditions was previously issued for repairs to an existing seawall. The contracted mason noticed that there are bulges in the wall that are large and unsafe to work on from the seaward side (hand work). The mason will not proceed without redesigning a portion of the wall to make it stable. The proposed redesign will encompass 100' of wall. Proposed are 3' footings on the exterior (seaward) portion of the bulges, pinned to the ledge below and build up from there to support the wall. The work will be done in small sections, all hand work. The Commissioners wonder why there has to be 100' of footings instead of just the area that has the bulges. Ms. Bertoni notes that this design change expands the scope of the original Notice of Intent (NOI) and Order of Conditions. The Commission would like the applicant to come back with an Amendment to the NOI with more information on the impact on the resource and what are the alternatives to do something smaller in scope.

IV. Recess for Public Hearings under Wetlands Protection Act and Local Wetlands By-Law (Mr. Gang)

V. Request for Determination of Applicability

92 Ocean Street, Longevity Bench Project/Manchester Essex Conservation Trust – installation of a “Longevity Bench” and concrete base within Coastal Beach & Dune, Tidal flats, Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage, and 100’ buffer to Salt Marsh
New **2019-0001**

Lisa Bonneville of the Longevity Bench Project presented. The proposed project is the installation of a 6’ deep concrete platform surfaced with aggregate and a bench on top in honor of Adele Ervin whose land was donated to MECT. Contractor Jeffrey’s Creek will install the bench and pad. The long term plan for the Longevity Bench Project is to install ADA compliant benches every ½ mile in designated walking loops. The concern of the Commissioners is that this location is near water and subject to ocean surges which may undermine the concrete pad and would need more repairing and maintenance (by the owner, MECT). Ms. Bertoni points out that it is a vegetated area that gets wash over from the road. The DPW requests a 4’ setback from Ocean Street and a paved section from the road to the bench. The pad is 12’X6’ with 6” of thickness. Abutter, Jaqueline Moony feels Adele (Ervin) would not want this bench on her property and is concerned with trash that people may leave behind. The Commissioners agree to a site visit to identify vegetation, see if there are options to move the bench, options for the concrete pad, and discuss an Operations and Maintenance Plan. A site visit is scheduled for Wednesday February 27th at 5:00 p.m.

Vote: To continue the matter to the 3/12/19 meeting.

Motion: Mr. Jaworski

Second: Ms. Hayes

Actual Vote: 5-0 1 abstained

VI. Notices of Intent

118 Bridge Street, David Reissfelder – after-the-fact utility installation

Continued from 12/4/18, 1/8/19 (no discussion), 1/29/19

DEP File #39-0793

The applicant requested a continuance to the next meeting.

Vote: To continue the matter to the next meeting on 3/12/19

Motion: Mr. Gang

Second: Mr. Jaworski

Actual Vote: 6-0

VII. Reconvene Regular Meeting (Mr. Gang)

VIII. Old/New Business

Eelgrass Subcommittee: David Lumsden volunteers to head the subcommittee whose focus will be protection of the eelgrass resource. Henry Oettinger also volunteers. Ms. Bertoni offers any help that they may need. If there is a change to the regulations it is a public process but does not need to go before Town Meeting. Any change to the by-law will need to go to Town Meeting. Mr. Gang would like a progress report at the next meeting.

Accepting a Conservation Restriction on Surf Village: Commissioners table this discussion until the 3/12/19 meeting as the final CR language has not been submitted at this time.

Beaver Solutions Invoice – The Commission has received an invoice from Beaver Solutions for annual maintenance on 5 Beaver Deceivers in the amount of \$1162.50. Ms. Bertoni will try and pull together a map of where the Beaver Deceivers are for the Commissioners.

Vote: To authorize expenditure from the Conservation Fund.

Motion: Mr. Gang

Second: Ms. Hayes
Actual Vote: 6-0

3 Town Owned Parcels – Ms. Bertoni informs the Commissioners that there will be fall Town Meeting where they will take up land issues. The Commission has discussed before 3 parcels and now 1 adjacent to those parcels for a Conservation Restriction to be added. The Commissioners would like the Open Space Committee to give their recommendations. Mr. Jaworski is a representative for the Open Space Committee. Ms. Bertoni will also get Mary Reilly involved. Discussion is tabled to the next meeting on 3/12/19.

Damage at the Singing Beach Sea Wall – The DPW is looking into it. There may be outside funding to repair the wall.

Phragmites – Mr. Gang informs the Commission that a study was done on Phragmites that showed it was positive for carbon sequestration.

MACC Spring Conference – Scheduled for March 2. All Commissioners invited to participate.

18 School Street – Ms. Bertoni issued a letter permit for an emergency tree removal (failing White Pine).

Elementary School Site – Ms. Bertoni issued a letter permit for test borings within the 100' buffer.

IX. Minutes

11/13/18 – Commissioners discussed corrections.

Vote: To accept the minutes as amended.

Motion: Mr. Gang
Second: Ms. Hayes
Actual Vote: 6-0

12/4/18 – Commissioners discussed corrections.

Vote: To accept the minutes as amended.

Motion: Mr. Gang
Second: Ms. Oseasohn
Actual Vote: 6-0

X. Adjournment:

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Lumsden to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 pm. This motion was seconded by Ms. Oseasohn and voted in favor 6-0.

Submitted by,

Eva Palmer

XI. Meeting Documents (2/19/19):

- Request for De Minimis Change for 27 Proctor Street DEP File # 39-0773 submitted by DeRosa Environmental Consulting, Inc. on 2/14/19.
- Request for Determination of Applicability, associated plans & documents for 92 Ocean Street file #2019-0001 submitted by Longevity Bench Project, Inc. on 2/4/19.
- Letter Permit submitted by Cicoria Tree Service for 2 Boardman Avenue.
- Email of Eelgrass Presentation made to Harbor Advisory Committee on 2/13/19 by Lori MacCausland.

- Letter sent to the Board of Selectmen & copied to Greg Federspiel on 1/31/19 by Conservation Commission Agent Chris Bertoni conveying unanimous support by the Conservation Commission for the Ocean Street Study MAPC Grant.
- Power Point handout by Phil Colarusso regarding Eelgrass.