



Town of Oak Bluffs
 Conservation Commission
 P.O. Box 1327
 Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
 508-693-3554 Ext 118
 conservation@oakbluffsma.gov

Joan Hughes
 Chairperson

Terry Appenzellar
 Sharon Cooke
 Alice Goyert
 Rose Ryley
 Ron Zentner
 Board Members

Garrett Albiston
 Conservation Agent
 Garri Saganenko
 Conservation Admin.

Conservation Commission Site Visit Minutes

June 14, 2022 – 1:00PM

Commissioners Present: Terry Appenzeller, Sharon Cooke, Alice Goyert, Ronald Zentner

Absent: Joan Hughes, Rose Ryley

Others Present: Garrett Albiston, Caleb Nicholson, Trey Rasmussen, Garri Saganenko

Discussions:

1:00PM-- NOI 319 Barnes Road M27 P5 – George Sourati, Notice of Intent to reconstruct a set of wooden stairs down a coastal bank and the removal of three trees located near the top of the bank.

Mr. Nicholson presented on behalf of Contemporary Landscapes, a business which he owns. He had with him in attendance Trey Rasmussen, an employee. George Sourati was absent. Mr. Nicholson showed attendees a set of stairs that descended a bank to the shore of Lagoon Pond. He gave an approximation of where a replacement set of stairs would end, where landings would be, and at what angle the stairs would be built. Mr. Albiston shared that the drop of the stairs might prevent approval of the project. Mr. Nicholson said the design of the stairs will change and that they will be longer, increasing the angle of descent.

Members need to descend the stairs to view the bank and inspect trees that may be removed. Once at the bank, Mr. Nicholson identified two Oak Trees that he felt needed to be removed in order to protect the bank from accelerated erosion. He also identified a Black Cherry tree that would need to be removed. He then read an excerpt from a report generated by Wilkinson Ecological Design of Orleans, MA : “To increase the stability and protect the toe of the coastal bank from erosion the two large white oaks with exposed root systems and at risk of falling are proposed for removal.”

Ms. Appenzellar questioned whether this were not an issue of increasing visibility of the lagoon from the property. She also sought confirmation that these trees are on the owner’s property. Ms. Appenzellar also wondered if coil rolls could be used instead. Mr. Nicholson shared that his client does not have the budget for such a project. Ms. Cooke asked where the property lines are and what types of grass would be planted. Mr. Nicholson said native grasses would be planted and then read from a list of the types. Mr. Albiston asked how

the trees would be removed once taken down, winches, tracks? The process, as confirmed by Mr. Nicholson, is that the old staircase would be removed, trees brought up that existing pathway, then a new staircase built. Attendees proceeded back up the staircase.

Mr. Nicholson wondered if the Conservation Commission has jurisdiction over how a staircase is built or only matters pertaining to what goes into the ground. Mr. Albiston shared that staircases are not grandfathered in. Mr. Nicholson shared that he might consider only fixing broken steps, not replacing the whole staircase.

Ms. Appenzellar shared that one of the Oaks looks healthy and straight and that this would need to be reviewed. Ms. Goyert shared that once you set a precedent of allowing trees to be cut then that is cause for trouble. Attendees then observed all the trees from the top of the bank.

Meeting concluded at 1:20pm.