

**Conservation Commission Minutes
Wednesday, February 8, 2011
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.
5:30pm**

Present: Members: Chair Ned Phillips Jr., John Hopf, David Roosa, Leslie Slate, Fred Leeder, and Marea Mott. **Absent:** Donald Littlefield. Also present was Scott Heinz and Terri Chmiel for the recording of the minutes.

Call to Order

Chair Mr. Phillips, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2011

Discussion ensued regarding the board's consensus that a majority of the members were not in support of the plans submitted from Mr. Hopf for an observation platform in Old Harbor. No action was taken and this item will be placed on next month's agenda.

Mr. Hopf joined the meeting at 5:35pm and Mr. Roosa at 5:38pm.

Heinz, D. Scott. Plat 17, Lot 52. ADVISORY to the Zoning Board of Review for an Application for a Special Use Permit under 307(E) and 406 for a proposed addition that will exceed the allowable 2000 square feet threshold in RB Zone.

Chair Mr. Phillips, Jr. recused himself and asked Mr. Hopf to chair the advisory.

Mr. Scott Heinz was present to present the application. Mr. Hopf acknowledged the following finds of fact:

- No outstanding issues would affect conservation
- No issue with lot coverage
- No impact from the road

Mr. Leeder made a motion for a favorable advisory to the Zoning Board of Review for a Special Use Permit under 307(E) and 406 for a proposed addition that will exceed the allowable 2000 square feet threshold in RB Zone. Mr. Slate seconded that motion with all in favor.

6 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Slate, Leeder, Mott) 0 Nays
1 Absent (Littlefield)

Application to CRMC for Graces Cove and Dories Cove Access Erosion Abatement Application.

Mr. Hopf presented the application along with photos documenting beach access erosion of Graces and Dories Cove. (See attach application) Mr. Hopf acknowledged the Town Council's approval for the application and the plans to install cribbing at Graces Cove and Dories Cove to prevent further erosion. Town Manager, Nancy Dodge, will write a cover letter in support of the application. Mr. Hopf expects to receive a donation from BIRA (Block Island Resident's Association) and will earmark the money to pay for the road fill for these two locations.

Old Business

a. Update on funding for dune restoration and repair of access points

Mr. Phillips reported the Block Island Conservancy donated \$500.00 towards snow fencing. The board will work as a team to put up the fencing. Mr. Hopf asked the board about purchasing 4x4 posts to attach the roping and cable ties. Mr. Phillips will look into 175 lb test cable ties.

b. Discuss Oyster Habitat Restoration

The board will send a letter to the Town Council that they are in support of the oyster habitat restoration. Mr. Hopf will draft a letter asking restaurant owners about recycling oyster and clam shells. This letter will be mailed in early spring to the restaurant owners on Block Island. The board also agreed that it would be easier to buy shells and will invite John Warfel to the next schedule meeting which will be held on March 8, 2011. The board will also discuss with Mr. Warfel the right of way by the Sullivan House to see if this site would work for cultch collection. The reference land is owned by the Town.

c. Discuss Observation Platform in Old Harbor

This item was discussed under new Business

d. Discussion of Hazard Mitigation meeting

No report at this time

New Business

Mr. Phillips, Jr. acknowledged receipt of a letter and sketches of Plat 6, Lots 146 & 147 and the Spring House Pump House from W. Douglas Gilpin addressed to First Warden Kim Gaffett and to the Conservation Commission. (See attachment) The board discussed a more simple approach with one set of stairs located at the wishing well next to the Surf Hotel. The Spring House Pump House sketches proposed an open air pavilion the board discuss the following:

- Blind corner

- No parking for the structure
- Could become a hangout

Mr. Hopf replied that he was in favor of the pavilion because it is a stopping place between the Town and the Southeast Lighthouse.

A motion was made by Mr. Phillips, Jr. that the Conservation Commission was not in favor of the proposal of plans of Plat 6, Lots 146 & 147 and the Spring House Pump House submitted by Doug Gilpin. However the board is in favor of a simple staircase by the wishing well as reference in the book "Images of America Block Island". (See photo attachment). Mr. Slate seconded the motion.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Roosa, Slate, Leeder, Mott) 1 Nays (Hopf)
1 Absence (Littlefield)

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20p.m. in a motion by Mr. Phillips, Jr. seconded by Mr. Slate and voted unanimously.

6 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Slate, Leeder, Mott) 0 Nays
1 Absence (Littlefield)

Respectfully submitted
Terri L. Chmiel

Minutes approved: March 8, 2011