

Conservation Commission Minutes
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.
5:30pm

Present: Members: Chair Ned Phillips, Jr., John Hopf, Leslie Slate, Marea Mott, and David Roosa.
Absent: Vice Chair Fred Leeder and Donald Littlefield. Also present Administrative Assistant Teresa Chmiel for the recording of the minutes. In the audience Town Councilmen: Mark Emmanuelle and Christopher Warfel.

Call to Order

Chair Ned Phillips, Jr. called the regular meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 5:30pm.

Kondracki, Mark and Kim. Plat 3, Lot 10-2. Advisory to the Zoning Board for an application by Douglas Gilpin for a Special Use Permit under Section (B)(1) for expansion of a dormer.

W. Douglas Gilpin, Jr. FAIA – Architect, presented on behalf of the owner. Mr. Gilpin is requesting to add 82 square feet to the second floor of the cottage. The owners wish is to move the master bedroom and a bathroom from the first floor to the second floor. Mr. Gilpin acknowledged the cottage will retain the same number of bedrooms and bathrooms; therefore, there is no change in the septic system. Mr. Hopf stated the Commission has no issues with the application.

Mr. Phillips, Jr. made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hopf to send a favorable Advisory to the Zoning Board for an application by Douglas Gilpin for a Special Use Permit under Section (B)(1) for expansion of a dormer.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Mott, and Slate) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Leeder and Littlefield)

BI Resorts, Inc. Plat 7, Lot 23. Advisory to the Zoning Board for an application for a Special Use Permit under Section 309 (E) and 411 and a Variance from Section 309(C) for construction of a two story commercial/residential mixed use building with stalls for the animals in the basement level.

Rita Draper, property owner presented. Ms. Draper explained the proposed new structure will include more stalls for the animals and a year round apartment on the upper level. She confirmed the building will be connected to Town water and sewer.

Mr. Hopf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Slate to send a favorable advisory to the Zoning Board for an application for a Special Use Permit under Section 309 (E) and 411 and a Variance from Section 309(C) for construction of a two story commercial/residential mixed use building with stalls for the animals in the basement level.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Mott, and Slate) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Leeder and Littlefield)

Correspondence:

Discuss/Act on the Interoffice Memorandum dated January 12, 2016 from the Town Council re: Assessing current goals for Conservation Commission.

Mr. Hopf made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, Jr. to table this item to the next regular scheduled meeting.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Mott, and Slate) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Leeder and Littlefield)

Discuss/Act on the email dated January 26, 2016 from Sven Rison re: Storm Water and Watershed Management – Update to the Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

This item was not discussed

Discuss/Act on the email dated January 26, 2016 from Chris Warfel re: Composting Opportunity.

Town Councilmen Chris Warfel and Mark Emmanuelle discussed composting opportunities for the island. Discussion ensued about the different types of composting, scope of the work, cost, enforcement, education, requirements and permitting process.

Mr. Emmanuelle discussed starting on a smaller scale and letting it evolve. He stated the composting opportunity on Block Island is too great of an idea to not implement. Mr. Warfel suggested contacting Rhode Island Resource Recovery.

Mr. Phillips, Jr. volunteered to do preliminary investigation; he will contact RI Resource Recovery. Mr. Hopf noted the Commission will investigate and educate.

Draft letter to the Town Council re: Tree Ordinance.

Mr. Phillips, Jr. addressed Councilman Emmanuelle and Warfel on the status of the Tree Ordinance, because it ties into the next agenda item of improper pruning of trees at the Ball O'Brien Park.

Discuss/Act on Letter dated January 25, 2016 via email, from Ned Phillips, Jr. to Town Manager re: Improper pruning of trees at Ball O'Brien Park.

Mr. Phillips, Jr. explained he sent an email to the Town Manager addressing improper pruning at the Ball O'Brien Park. Mr. Warfel will follow up with the Town Solicitor on the status of the Tree Ordinance.

Discuss/Act on a letter to the Town Council/Finance Director for consideration of funds to purchase snow fencing, posts, and the cost of installation.

Mr. Hopf will draft a letter for consideration of funds to purchase snow fencing, posts, and beach grass. Mr. Hopf will identify where the snow fencing will be located and approximately how much beach grass needs to be planted.

Approval of minutes of August 11, 2015 and December 8, 2015.

Mr. Phillips, Jr., made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hopf, to approve the minutes of August 11, 2015 as presented.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Mott, and Slate) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Leeder and Littlefield)

Mr. Roosa made a motion, seconded by Mr. Phillips, Jr., to approve the minutes of December 8, 2015 as presented.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Mott, and Slate) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Leeder and Littlefield)

Adjournment.

With no further discussions the meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm in a motion by Mr. Phillips, Jr., and seconded by Mr. Slate.

5 Ayes (Phillips, Hopf, Roosa, Mott, and Slate) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Leeder and Littlefield)

Respectfully submitted
Teressa L. Chmiel
Administrative Assistant Building and Land Use
Minutes approved: