



**TOWN OF TRURO  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

P.O. Box 2030  
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**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: August 1, 2022**

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Commissioner Carol Girard-Irwin, Commissioners Bob White, Mark Adams, Diane Messinger, Larry Lown, & Clint Kershaw

**Absent:** Vice Chair Commissioner Linda Noons-Rose; Also Present: Emily Beebe, Conservation Agent, Courtney Warren, Assistant Conservation Agent.

The Chair, Carol Girard-Irwin, called the meeting and public hearings to order at 5:00 PM and provided virtual instructions.

**Public Comment:** There was no public comment.

**Notice of Intent: 491 Shore Road, Jennifer E. Cabral, SE# 75-1150:** *(Continued from 7/11/2022)* Jennifer Cabral was on the call to represent the project, and noted that the original plans had been revised to show the access stairway and landing; the proposed incinerating toilet and sink have been removed from the plan. The impermeable sections of the driveway will be removed, and a system will be installed to deal with roof runoff. Commissioner Lown asked if the public would be coming to the workshop and the answer was no. Commissioner Girard-Irwin asked about any paints or stains that would be used in the shop. Ms. Cabral described their standard process for handling both water-based and oil-based substances. **Motion:** Commissioner Larry Lown moved to approve the filing. **Second:** Commissioner Bob White; **Vote:** 5-0-0; **the motion passed.**

**Notice of Intent: 39 Bayview Road, Lawrence Gottesdiener; SE# 75-1140:** *(Continued from 7/11/2022)*

The applicants requested a continuance until the September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting.

**Motion:** Commissioner Bob White moved to continue the matter until September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022 **Second:** Commissioner Mark Adams; **Vote:** 5-0-0; **The motion passed.**

**Request for Determination of Applicability: 13 Depot Road, Christine & Ernie Sanders:** Christine and Ernie Sanders were on the call to represent the project. The proposed 16x8 garden shed will be on blocks, and they are proposing to plant bearberry in any disturbed areas after construction is complete. Commissioner Lown asked about the square footage of the proposed shed and whether there would be any windows, doors, plumbing, or electricity in the structure. The shed is proposed to be 128 square feet with a door and a window for ventilation but no electricity or plumbing. Commissioner White asked about mitigation for roof runoff. Ms. Sanders stated there would be permeable gravel around the shed to naturally deal with runoff. Commissioner Adams suggested mimicking the natural heathland on the Coastal Bank incorporating ferns, bayberry, and native grasses as well as bearberry in the planting plan. **Motion:** Commissioner Bob

**White moved a negative 3 determination; Second: Commissioner Diane Messinger; Vote: 6-0-0; The motion passed.**

**Notice of Intent: 3 Knowles Heights Road, Bonnie Brown-Bonse; SE# 75-1151:**

Matthew Farrell was on the call to represent the project which is a septic upgrade to an innovative/alternative system. Part of this property is in the 50' and 100' buffers to a coastal bank while the rest of the property is outside conservation jurisdiction. He described the system and in particular the septic tanks and pump chambers necessary to service cottages 1-5 which are located at the lowest elevation of the property and are in the 50-foot buffer zone. Commissioner Messinger asked about the restoration of the disturbed areas and was told the plan is to revegetate disturbed areas with American Beachgrass. Commissioner Girard-Irwin inquired about the number of cesspools that would be removed. Mr. Farrell stated that there were five cesspools in the 100-foot buffer zone. Commissioner Larry Lown expressed concern over the amount of disturbance that would happen in the buffer zone to the Coastal Bank. The Agent explained that this is an upgrade and not new construction, and that Title 5 improvements are presumed to meet the performance standards set forth by the Wetlands Protection Act. Both the Mr. Farrell, and Commissioner Adams commented on how stable this particular section of coastal bank was. Discussion about how to protect the resource area during construction included a description of erosion control methods. The limit of work has been staked and it is close to the top of the coastal bank; a silt fence will be installed to prevent material from moving over the bank. The project will be completed using the smallest possible equipment and the two septic tanks closest to the top of bank will be plastic to minimize disturbance. The Agent asked about stockpiling of sand and the Commission decided to allow designation of an area within the 50' buffer for minimal stockpiling of materials as needed, as a condition, along with the notes on the plans, and pre-construction conditions.

**Motion: Commissioner Diane Messinger moved to approve the filing with conditions**  
**Second: Commissioner Mark Adams; Vote: 6-0; The motion passed.**

**Notice of Intent: 3 River View Road, Stephen Powell; SE# 75-1152:**

Mr. Powell and John O'Reilly were on the call to represent the project which involves vista pruning at the property. A view corridor that was created when the house was constructed in 1999 is now closing in on itself. The proposal includes the strategic removal of a few trees, as well as some limbing to reestablish the vista while planting, to add to the diversity of vegetative species in the area. A total of five pine trees will be removed, two from the 100-foot buffer zone to the coastal bank and two in the 50-foot buffer zone. The work will also include the flush cutting of three clusters of oak trees that are blocking the current vista. These flush cut oak trees would be maintained as shrubs after they resprout. There was discussion about the conditions, as selective pruning of the leaders, rather than topping was the allowable standard that would preserve the growth pattern of the trees. The Order of conditions would reflect on-going conditions that are found on notes 1-6 on the plan. Commissioners Lown and Messinger were concerned about the removal of the one oak tree positioned closest to the residence. There was discussion as to whether this tree is in or out of jurisdiction as the trunk is outside the 200-ft riverfront area, but the canopy within it. The property owner did have concerns that this tree could become a hazard to the residence. **Motion: Commissioner Larry Lown moved to approve the plan with the condition that the oak tree located closest**

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to the residence and on the border of the jurisdictional area be pruned and not removed; Second: Commissioner Diane Messinger; Vote: 2-4-0; the motion did not pass.

Motion: Commissioner Carol Girard-Irwin moved to approve the plan as proposed. Second: Commissioner Bob White; Vote: 4-2-0; The motion passed.

**Field Change: 20 Toms Hill Path, SE# 75-1049**

The Agent explained the minor changes as proposed by the owner, to the Commission. The Commissioners discussed the magnitude of the changes and agreed that the changes were minimal

Motion: Commissioner Diane Messinger moved to approve the field change; Second: Commissioner Mark Adams; Vote: 5-1; The motion passed.

**Administrative Review Permit requests:**

**510 Shore Road, U: A;** two additional split rail fence sections:

Motion: Commissioner Clint Kershaw moved to approve the administrative review permit; Second: Commission Chair Carol Girard Irwin; Vote: 6-0-0; The motion passed.

**6 Castle Hill Lane;** remove two broken tree limbs:

Motion: Commissioner Bob White moved to approve the administrative review; Second: Commissioner Larry Lown; Vote: 6-0-0; The motion passed.

Commissioner Larry Lown moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Commission Chair Carol Girard Irwin: 6-0-0; The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Nina Richey

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