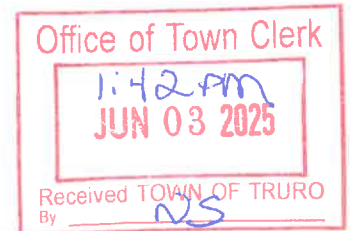




TOWN OF TRURO CONSERVATION COMMISSION

P.O. Box 2030
Truro MA 02666-0630



Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes: January 6, 2025

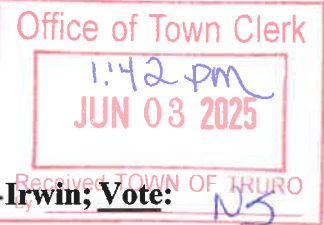
Commissioners Present: Chair Carol Girard-Irwin, Commissioners Bob White, Clint Kershaw, and Diane Messinger. Present Virtually: Vice Chair Linda Noons-Rose

Absent: Commissioner Connie Mather; **Others Present:** Emily Beebe, Conservation Agent; Courtney Warren, Assistant Conservation Agent (present virtually); Select Board member Nancy Medoff (present virtually)

This was a hybrid meeting with both in-person and remote participants. Chair Carol Girard-Irwin called the meeting and public hearings to order at 5:02 pm and provided the virtual meeting instructions. Due to an issue with the elevator in Town Hall, testimony was heard for all Notices of Intent, but an extra meeting will be held on January 27, 2025 to close these hearings.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 2 Meetinghouse Road, Unit 3, Matthew Hooven: Proposal to lift house & install new foundation; Riverfront Area. (Map 50, Parcel 4.3) Greg Morris represented the request to install a foundation under a cottage that is currently on blocks. The project would be to raise the cottage, construct the foundation, and then return the cottage to the same elevation as it is currently. Commissioner Bob White requested that the red cedar and white spruce trees near the cottage be saved if possible and the Agent noted the need for a silt fence on the downslope. **Motion:** Commissioner Diane Messinger moved for a negative 3 determination; **Second:** Commissioner Bob White; **Vote:** 5-0-0; the motion carried.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 6 Castle Road, Pamela Blair: After-the-fact filing for fencing; Riverfront Area & Coastal Bank. (Map 50, Parcel 146) Benjamin Fairbank represented the homeowner and began by clarifying that the intent had been to file the RDA before work was done but the fencing company installed the fence without authorization. They propose to align the new section of fence with an older previously permitted section that is 6" from the property line. They would like the fencing between the two houses to extend to the ground and are proposing passage for animals in other locations. Chair Carol Girard-Irwin noted that the property was almost completely enclosed with fencing extending to the ground. Ben Fairbank stated that they are proposing a net increase in passage but are trying to keep dogs separated. The Commissioners reiterated the need for wildlife passage. Commissioner Linda Noons-Rose asked about the impact to the neighbor's trees by moving the fence closer to the property line. Ben Fairbank replied that the contractor is committed to preserving trees. The Agent suggested a focused site visit with staff to look at access. **Motion:** Commissioner Clint Kershaw moved to



continue the matter until February 3, 2025; Second: Chair Carol Girard-Irwin; Vote: 5-0-0; the motion carried.

Notice of Intent: 20 Toms Hill Road, Joseph Fiorello (SE#075-): Demolish and replace dwelling (this was a previously approved project with an expired OOC); Riverfront Area & Buffer Zone to a Coastal Bank. (Map 46, Parcel 342) *(continued from 12/2/2024)* Property owner Joe Fiorello requested to withdraw this application because his expired permit was revived by the recent Permit Extension Act. **Motion: Chair Carol Girard-Irwin moved to accept the withdrawal request; Second: Commissioner Bob White; Vote: 5-0-0; the motion carried.**

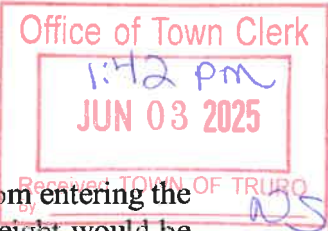
Notice of Intent: 17 Avocet Road, Jennifer & Michael Freitag (SE#075-1204): Proposed installation of sturdy sand drift fence, coir logs, and replacement of beach stairs; Coastal Beach; Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage (LSCSF) Coastal Bank. (Map 39, Parcel 217) *(continued from 12/2/2024)* Jen and Nick Crawford were present at the meeting and the property owners and their attorney were present virtually. Jen Crawford stated that they have reviewed Bryan McCormack's report and went on to detail proposed revisions to their plan. They have reduced the proposed number of fiber rolls from three rows to two both above and below the five rows that would meet up with the abutting installations. They would hold a 25' setback to the property line for the additional rows of coir and for the sturdy drift fence. Commissioner Clint Kershaw asked if the abutters' have fences and Jen Crawford replied that only pilings and a few panels remain. Abutter Wendy Lurie stated that the abutters were all happy that the Freitags were interested in working to protect the bank but were disappointed that they were pursuing a project that was not contiguous with the others in the area as they believe a uniform approach would be better. She asked a question about the percentage reduction in coir rolls. She also asked if their proposal to install five rows meeting up with the abutting coir installation would mean three buried rolls since the abutters have one buried roll and four on the bank. Jen Crawford clarified that at the time of the survey, the bottom row of the abutters' installations was partially exposed. The Agent confirmed with the Crawfords that they would be holding a 25' setback to the property line with the additional buried rolls. Nick Crawford explained that the 30% reduction in coir rolls was based on the total linear foot reduction from the original proposal. Abutter Rick Summers reviewed the annual reports from Stan Humphries on 15, 17, and 19 Avocet Rd. Those reports concluded that the arrays were intact, had protected the bank, and met all order of conditions. Homeowner Michael Freitag noted that the third-party evaluator clearly stated that the array is failing. They had been advised by another coastal geologist that the array is failing and received advice to go higher and lower. The Agent noted that the report from Bryan McCormack was an evaluation of conditions as they are and were not an endorsement or rejection of any proposal. The Agent requested the applicant provide more detail before the next meeting about the existing and new work, specifically scour so that the project could be properly conditioned. The Agent also asked for a description of how the buried drift fence would perform and if would it lead to erosion due to a change in the compaction of the sand. She acknowledged that there have been issues with the cables holding the existing coir on this site but noted that the installation has not failed. Nick Crawford noted that the fence is now proposed to be 3' above the beach and 1' below and the Agent asked how the fence would be installed. Nick Crawford replied

that the pilings would be driven with a vibratory drill. Jen Crawford addressed end scour stating that scour would only happen if the buried roll became exposed or the installation gets overtopped. Commissioner Clint Kershaw opined that fencing and coir work best as a system. **Motion: Commissioner Clint Kershaw moved to continue the matter until January 27, 2025; Second: Chair Carol Girard-Irwin; Vote: 5-0-0; the motion carried.**

Notice of Intent: 5 Great Hills Lane, Kevin Wise (SE#75-1207): Proposed coir log array, sand drift fence, & nourishment; Coastal Dune, Coastal Beach, LSCSF. (Map 53, Parcel 1) *(continued from 12/2/2024)* Stan Humphries described the proposed project as construction of a ~150-foot sturdy drift fence and installation of coir log array which would be covered with sand, planted with beach grass, and renourished annually. The remnants of the existing serpentine fence posts are shown on the plan. All coir logs would be located above mean high water with two rows proposed below the existing beach and three along the dune. Commissioner Clint Kershaw asked why the plan showed a 25' setback on one side but not the other. Stan Humphries will amend the plan to show 25' setback on both sides. Commissioner Linda Noons-Rose asked for clarification on the fence construction. Stan Humphries replied that all hardware would be lag bolts not nails. The Agent noted that conditions would include requirement of beach grass planting, lag bolts instead of screws, and a 25' setback from the property line on both sides. **Motion: Commissioner Clint Kershaw moved to continue the matter until January 27, 2025; Second: Vice Chair Linda Noons-Rose; Vote: 5-0-0; the motion carried.**

Notice of Intent: 544 Shore Road, Bay Beach Town Homes (SE#75-1208): Proposed coir log array, sand drift fence, & nourishment; Barrier Beach, LSCSF, Coastal Dune. (Map 7, Parcel 5) *(continued from 12/2/2024)* Representative Brian Madden described the revised plans that showed a coir log array instead of coir envelopes. The coir would be closer to the building and the fence would align with the abutters' fences on both sides. They have updated the management plan to prohibit storage on the dune and to clarify that all beach access is through the center breezeway. Rope fencing and signage would be utilized to prevent walking through dune area. Chair Carol Girard-Irwin asked for clarification on the green section of the plan. Brian Madden replied that area was the extent of the beach grass planting and proposed sand nourishment. He noted that the existing snow fence on the seaward side would be removed and replaced with the sturdy sand drift fence and that the snow fencing on the landward side would be replaced in kind. The Agent asked that a revision date be added to the management plan and requested specific language be added to the plan notes: Item #4 - Conservation Commission review is required for any structure that might be needed to replace the mobi-mat. Item #5 - Snow fencing shall be added as needed or as required by the Commission. Item #6 - no unpermitted structures are allowed. Item #7 - no storage of watercraft on the water side. Abutter Marie Belding confirmed that the new fence would align with their fence. **Motion: Commissioner Clint Kershaw moved to continue the matter until January 27, 2025; Second: Commissioner Diane Messinger; Vote: 5-0-0; the motion carried.**

Notice of Intent: 48 Castle Road, Anne Brandt/Myers Truro LLC (SE#75-): Proposal to repair cracks in low seawall; Coastal Bank, Salt Marsh, LSCSF. (Map 50, Parcel 3) Gordon Peabody from Safe Harbor described the project as a simple repair of the wall



using a hanging platform and a metal staple system to prevent any debris from entering the marsh. All staging would be in the existing driveway. The existing wall height would be increased by one block in anticipation of sea level rise. Commissioner Bob White asked for clarification on the materials used in the repair system. It would likely be stainless steel. The Agent noted that an access stairway looked to be recently replaced without a permit. Gordon Peabody will investigate and report back. He noted that all work would stop at the property line. **Motion: Chair Carol Girard-Irwin moved to continue the matter until January 27, 2025; Second: Vice Chair Linda Noons-Rose; Vote: 5-0-0; the motion carried.**

Notice of Intent: 33 Knowles Heights Road, Janet London (SE#75-): Proposed installation of sand drift fence & coir log array; Coastal Beach, Coastal Bank, LSCSF. (Map 35, Parcel 9)

Notice of Intent: 29 & 31 Knowles Heights Road, David Walsh (SE#75-): Proposed installation of sand drift fence & coir log array; Coastal Beach, Coastal Bank, LSCSF. (Map 35, Parcel 7 & 8) Because the projects would be connected, both were discussed together. Stan Humphries from ECR represented both applications. Commissioner Clint Kershaw asked about the proposed coir log at the top of the bank at 33 Knowles Heights Road. Stan Humphries replied that the cavity at the top of the bank is unique to 33 Knowles Heights Road. They are proposing to plant beach grass 18" on center (OC) in that area and 12" OC on the lower part of the bank. No irrigation is currently proposed. Planting would start at the very top, continue past the cavity, over the coir log, and extend down to the lower coir installation. Chair Carol Girard-Irwin asked why the plantings were 18" O.C. not 12" O.C. Stan Humphries replied that that area is not heavily impacted by wave energy and that cost is also a factor. The Agent suggested that the order could be conditioned so that plantings may be increased as necessary. Commissioner Linda Noons-Rose noted that the beach access stairs should be augmented with additional batten boards. Also, one vertical member on one set of stairs was floating and needed repair. These items could be included as a condition to prevent the need for any additional filing. **Motion: Chair Carol Girard-Irwin moved to continue the Notices of Intent for both 29, 31, and 33 Knowles Heights Road until January 27, 2025; Second: Commissioner Diane Messinger; Vote: 5-0-0; the motion carried.**

Notice of Intent: 522 Shore Road Unit 1, Wayside One Realty Trust (SE#75-): elevate above flood zone; Barrier Beach, Coastal Dune, LSCSF. (Map 7, Parcel 8.1) Stan Humphries from ECR and Cole Bateman from Tighe & Bond represented the request to raise the existing at-grade home to comply with the floodplain standard for an AE Zone elevation 13. No expansion of the home is proposed. A small deck and some interior reconstruction is proposed. At grade decking from 2014 would be maintained in its current location. Cole Bateman described the foundation design that is constrained by both wetlands and building code requirements. He reviewed the alternatives for the foundation construction, but the preferred alternative is to elevate the structure and work in place to construct an open concrete pier foundation. Cole Bateman shared a schematic of the proposed foundation type. Commissioner Clint Kershaw asked what kind of concrete would be used. Cole Bateman stated it would be standard weight concrete reinforced with rebar not coated. The Agent asked if a ZBA filing was needed and if so, that application would need to be filed before this matter could close. **Motion: Chair Carol Girard-Irwin**

moved to continue the matter until January 27, 2025; **Second:** Commissioner Clint Kershaw; **Vote:** 5-0-0; the motion carried.

Enforcement: 42 Great Hollow Road, Chapman: Retaining wall on Coastal Beach and LSCSF No one was present for this matter. The Agent stated that a follow-up memo will be sent. **Motion:** Commissioner Clint Kershaw moved to continue the matter until February 3, 2025; **Second:** Chair Carol Girard-Irwin; **Vote:** 5-0-0; the motion carried.

Administrative Review Applications: 1.) 6 Bearberry Lane: nourishment & plantings. 2.) 630 Shore Road: hand-dig trench for new gas line, 3.) 1 Circuit Way: plantings **Motion:** Vice Chair Linda Noons-Rose moved to approve all of the Administrative Review requests; **Second:** Chair Carol Girard-Irwin; **Vote:** 5-0-0

Commissioner Clint Kershaw moved to adjourn the meeting; **Second:** Chair Carol Girard-Irwin; **Vote:** 5-0-0; the motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Courtney Warren cw

