

PROVINCETOWN CONSERVATION COMMISSION

February 26, 2008

5:30 P.M.

WORK SESSION

Members Present: Dennis Minsky, Elaine Anderson, Lynne Martin and David Hale.

Members Absent: Dieter Groll.

Others Present: Brian Carlson (Conservation Agent) and Ellen C. Battaglini (Recording Secretary) and Jack McMahon (observer).

Open Space Committee: Celine Gandolfo and Steve Milkewicz.

Co-Chair Dennis Minsky called the Work Session to order at 5:37 P.M.

SHANK PAINTER POND WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PROJECT:

Brian Carlson handed out a Timeline and Action Plan for the Conservation Land Management Project at Shank Painter Pond Wildlife Sanctuary and a Shank Painter Project Budget. These were compiled by Amber Stonik. Also handed out were Ron Robillard's plan, a picture of the proposed bike rack and several estimates for soil costs (from S&J Exco, Inc., Cape Cod Aggregates and Nickerson) and Irene Seipt's planting and soil plan for the project.

SHANK PAINTER PROJECT BUDGET: There were several pricing scenarios presented for the items in the project that need to be constructed, including the railing, the benches, the split rail fence and the bike rack. The scenarios presented the prices of these items using different materials, ACQ and Trex, and were priced accordingly. Also shown were the prices for ABC, weed fabric, loam and plant mix. The Commission and Open Space discussed the scenarios.

BENCHES, RAILING, BIKE RACK and SPLIT RAIL: The Commission and Open Space determined that using Trex for the railing, the benches and the bike rack would be the most expensive scenario and would leave the least amount of money for the plantings, the cost of which were not included in the budget. After much discussion, the Commission decided to use Trex for the benches and the railing. That cost would be \$2,687.00. The bike rack and split rail fence would be made out of ACQ. The Commission and Open Space also decided to purchase the weed fabric for \$45.57.

PARKING LOT: The Commission and Open Space discussed this issue and decided that they would need one more load of ABC for the parking lot. This is the amount of ABC that Ray Duarte, from DPW, had suggested when he made a site visit. The amount of one load of ABC is \$450.00.

SIGNS: There will be two large introductory signs, one each at the Route 6 entrance and the Ship's Way entrance. There will be two interpretive signs, one on the deck and one in the open area off the trail, and a sign recognizing the Patrick family, who were previous owners of the property. All signs should be kept well away from the highway. The Commission and Open Space then discussed what the signage should look like. It was decided that Open Space will work on ideas and submit designs for signage.

SOIL: Irene Seipt has researched the soil issue. She found a place in Yarmouth that takes leaf and yard waste, cooks it to kill the weed seeds, composts it for two or three years and then sells it. She thinks that is the ideal soil to mix with the sand onsite to create a good environment for both the new plantings and what is already growing there. According to her, with sandy loam comes weed seeds and that is problematic for this site. She can get the Yarmouth leaf and yard waste composted soil for \$150.00 per 5

yards delivered. She calculated that the site needs a minimum of 15 yards and a maximum of 30 yards of soil. She recommended that the Commission go with the higher yardage.

SOIL REMOVAL: If the Commission and Open Space did decide to remove soil at the site, as has been discussed at great length at previous Commission hearings, Irene's calculation would be that about 15 yards of soil would need to be removed. However, she thinks that better use could be made of the time and labor of Americorps volunteers than in removing 15 yards of the existing soil. She thinks that the weed seeds may have been killed by the Round Up that was used last year at the site. She believes that the removal of evening primrose is still an issue for Conservation and Open Space to work out. It can be hand-pulled if necessary. Irene will consult with Amber about her estimates of the quantity of soil needed for the site.

PLANTINGS: Irene recommends planting bearberry interspersed with native grasses (little bluestem and hair grass), interspersed with bayberry bushes along the pathway. This scheme of plantings is native, needs little soil and is low maintenance. It's what grows along the bike path. For the clearings, she recommends beach plum, planted in groups. She calculates that about 1,000 bearberry plants, which she has found for about \$1.50 per plant, will be needed to line the trail. Irene's research for the cost of these plantings was:

Bearberry: \$1,500.00.

Bluestem: \$500.00.

Hair grass: This can be grown from seed.

Low bush Blueberry: \$6.50 per plant.

Sweet Fern: \$53.00 per tray with 32 plants per tray. She would like 2 trays for the site.

Irene has a place to store the plantings until they go into the ground. She will try to come up with a more definite range for the cost of the plantings. She estimates \$3,500.00 for a fairly accurate working figure. She needs to move quickly on purchasing some of the plantings, including the blueberry and sweet fern, because at this time of year everyone is preparing for planting season.

She would also love to see some shad trees and maybe an oak tree out there, if possible, and if the Commission and Open Space can find the money.

Lynne Martin moved to approve the purchase and use of Trex for the railing and the benches, ACQ for any other item that needed to be constructed, including the bike rack and the split rail fence and the purchase of weed fabric, Elaine Anderson seconded and it was so voted unanimously.

Dennis Minsky moved to approve the purchase of one load of ABC for \$450.00 for the parking lot and for the trail extension, Lynne Martin seconded and it was so voted unanimously.

Dennis Minsky moved to leave the existing soil onsite, to be integrated into the open areas in the manner described by Irene Seipt, and to purchase 30 yards of leaf and yard waste compost from Yarmouth for \$900.00, Elaine Anderson seconded and it was so voted unanimously.

Dennis Minsky moved to approve the amount of \$350.00 for the purchase of low bush Blueberry plants and Sweet Fern plants by Irene Seipt, David Hale seconded and it was so voted unanimously.

Celine stated that the Conservation Trust would like to contribute money to the purchase of the plantings for the site.

ADJOURNMENT: *Dennis Minsky moved to adjourn the Work Session at 6:40 P.M. and it was so voted unanimously.*

These minutes were approved by a vote of the Conservation Commission at their meeting on _____, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen C. Battaglini

Approved by _____ on _____, 2008

Dennis Minsky and Elaine Anderson, Co-Chairs