

Town of Wellfleet

Rights of Public Access Committee

Meeting Minutes: March 10, 2022, 2:30 p.m.

Committee members present: John Riehl, Steve Blanchard, Barbara Carboni, Melissa Yow

Others present: Melissa Lowe , Mass. Audubon Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary Director

The meeting was called to order by Melissa Yow.

Lieutenant Island puddle. Melissa Lowe, Director of Mass. Audubon Wellfleet Bay Sanctuary joined the meeting to discuss the Sanctuary's plan to approach the Conservation Commission again on filling the puddle (located in sand road southeast of Lt. Island bridge). Original application still open from September meeting; Conservation had not approved filling with gravel, and stated it wouldn't consider shells. Commission had suggested finding alternative access points, or other environmentally sound solution. Mass. Audubon researched alternatives and found native bank sand as appropriate; this would be proposed to Conservation Commission, although long term viability not known. John Riehl noted that RPAC would monitor and could report on status. Melissa Lowe noted Mass. Audubon's understanding of the value of this location to the shellfishing community. There was discussion of history of puddle; Committee viewed Google Earth images over time showing puddle area increasing. There was discussion of other locations where dirt roads were permitted to have gravel added. It was noted that in those cases the roads led to homes. Melissa Lowe noted that Mass Audubon would not be asking for repeated applications of sand; this is one-time request. John Riehl suggested that Mass Audubon leave door open for future action in its application.

Melissa Yow had drafted a letter on behalf of RAC for submission to the Conservation Commission in support of the Mass. Audubon application, explaining the importance of access point for commercial and recreational shellfishing. The draft was discussed. The possibility of alternative access to shellfishing area was discussed, although this would not be vehicle access. John Riehl moved to approve the letter; Steve Blanchard seconded. Motion carried 4-0. Melissa Lowe noted that Ian Ives of Mass Audubon would be presenting to Conservation Commission.

Plan for Sea Level Rise. Melissa Yow noted prior discussion of this , including potential funding for plan. There has been study of impact of sea level rise on Town roads, but not impact on access points. What are next steps? Too late to request funding at this year's Town Meeting. John Riehl noted need for maps; there are some from Barnstable County; Center for Coastal

Studies might have others. Shellfishermen should be consulted; also (Shellfish Constable) Nancy Civetta and Beach Administrator. Catalog of ways to the water will also be resource. Melissa is currently maintaining the spreadsheet and additions can be sent to her.

New Secretary. Melissa Yow noted Sonya Woodman's departure from RPAC; expressed gratitude for her contributions, including preparation of minutes. Barbara Carboni volunteered to take on minutes going forward, and to create minutes for February and March meetings.

Next meeting date: Thurs April 7th at 1pm. Barbara Carboni will chair. Agenda items will include outcome of Conservation Commission hearing; recruiting another member; Community Preservation Act a/k/ CPC funding.

John Riehl moved to adjourn; Steve Blanchard seconded. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Carboni

Meeting documents: Draft letter from RPAC to Conservation Commission in support of Mass. Audubon application to Conservation Commission, dated March 10, 2022.