



BOX 1447, OAK BLUFFS, MASSACHUSETTS, 02557, 508-693-3453,
FAX 508-693-7894 INFO@MVCOMMISSION.ORG WWW.MVCOMMISSION.ORG

Martha's Vineyard Commission

Land Use Planning Committee

Notes of the Mtg of August 11, 2013

Held in the Stone Building, New York Avenue, Oak Bluffs. 5:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Linda Sibley (Chair), Fred Hancock, Trip Barnes.

MVC Staff Present: Jo-Ann Taylor, Mark London.

1. O.B. Fishing Pier (DRI 628-M2) Modification Request

Present for the Applicant: Ross Kessler (Marine Fisheries)

Others: David Nash and Don Scarpone (M.V. Surfcasters)

Project Location: Sea View Avenue Extension, Oak Bluffs, Map 9, Lot 58

Proposal: To add a Lifesling, two dropnets, a bait cutting station, a manual pump to bring up seawater for washing, and lights, to the pile-supported, ADA-accessible public shore fishing pier.

Linda Sibley chaired the meeting.

Ross Kessler presented the proposed amendments. Jo-Ann Taylor displayed the illustrations on the overhead screen, along with the text of the conditions regarding running water and electricity and regarding lighting

- 4.5 As offered by the Applicants, the pier is not to be provided with amenities such as running water and electricity, but rather is to retain the unadorned quality of the pier as presented.
- 3.1 As offered by the Applicants, no lighting is proposed on the pier. Reflectors, including radar reflectors, may be installed as necessary for public safety and navigation.

Correspondence was reviewed:

- The Conservation Commission submitted a July 16 letter of approval, noting that the MVC also must address the proposed changes. Regarding lighting, the Conservation Commission wrote "The Oak Bluffs Pier Regulations do not allow lighting on piers but the Commission determined that this is an exception since it is a public pier, open 24 hours, and lighting is a safety issue".

Most of the conversation centered on the lights:

- Significant public testimony in 2010 focused on the issue of lights.
- Could fishermen bring their own lights?
- Could the lights be directed downwards?
- Could the lights be LED?
- Could the lights be on motion sensors?

Ross Kessler will explore options, but cautioned that the lights must be durable in the marine environment. That limits some choices. The lights could be removed for the winter. He offered to mount one or two for a trial period of display.

Regarding the bait cutting station, Fred Hancock recalled from the public hearing testimony that there would not be a bait cutting station. He asked if the Town will be responsible for maintenance. Ross Kessler responded that he will provide maintenance for the equipment, and that the M.V. Surfcasters have also offered to help the Town with routine maintenance such as picking up trash.

Fred Hancock made a motion to recommend to the full Commission that the proposal should be presented at a formal public hearing. Trip Barnes disagreed, noting that the Commission has a busy schedule and this shouldn't be heard. Linda Sibley voted to break the tie.

- LUPC voted 2-1 to recommend to the full Commission that a public hearing should be held.

Ross Kessler asked if the Lifesling and dropnets could be ordered right away. Linda Sibley responded that the Lifesling and dropnets are equipment and are not covered by the Decision. There was consensus that the Lifesling and dropnets do not need review, and may be put into service right away.

There was some discussion of timing of the Commission vote and a potential public hearing to follow. Ross Kessler would like to install the lights, pump and bait cutting station in the spring. Fred Hancock said that the Commission will take up the agenda item on September 4. A hearing could subsequently be scheduled for October.

Linda Sibley asked Jo-Ann Taylor to look into the Town's Pier Regulations and verify that it would be OK to allow lights.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20.

Notes prepared by Jo-Ann Taylor

Attachments:

Illustrations

Letter from Conservation Commission – July 16, 2014

Attendance

Illustrations

A. Life sling- This mounted throwable device is commonplace on a lot of piers everywhere. Even though the rail heights are up to code children and misbehaving older kids (aka-college students) have been known to scale railings in place where they really shouldn't.



A lifesling® is the modern "better" life ring. This will be invaluable if someone falls from the pier and needs assistance getting to safety.

B. Drop net – This is essentially a framed small hammock on a rope that anglers who fish on bridges use to get their catch to the surface. I would like to put two of these somewhere near the end of the pier. This will be a huge help if/when striped bass, blues, albies, or bones are caught there.



A drop net at either end of the "L" will allow anglers to bring large fish up onto the pier and release them safely. The bitter ends of the main line could be back braided and left on the pier for all anglers to use.

C. Lights I would like to place self-contained solar charging lights on the inside posts of the pier. These would likely be the LED footlight variety to create a safe environment for getting to the end of the pier after dark. They would add a safety factor not just for falls but also act as a deterrent to those whose intentions may be unsavory.



Solar powered footlights at the "L" and a few along the pier length for safety reasons.



Proposed location for solar lights. Panel up light facing down.



D. Bait cutting station ('s)- We want to add a place where people can cut bait (not on the pier decking/benches). My thought is to build it into the inside corner of the end of the "L". This will be made of some kind of cutting board material and lumber.



A bait cutting station like this with bigger back splash, a more pronounced front lip, a cutout for the pump and a drain channeled back into Vineyard Sound. My concept also will be built in. I wanted to demonstrate a solid, attractive, easily cleanable concept.

E. Water Pump- attached to the same part of the pier as the bait station I'd like to attach an old fashioned hand pump to pump salt water up to the cutting area to keep it clean and be a place for anglers to wash their hands while fishing.



Type of proposed pump for use at the end of pier for cleaning hands, bait, etc.



**Town of Oak Bluffs
Conservation Commission
PO Box 1327
Oak Bluffs, MA 02557
508-693-3554 x118
edurkee@oakbluffsma.gov**

July 16, 2014

Mr. Ross R. Kessler
Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries
Public Access Coordinator
1213 Purchase Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

RE: Fishing Pier changes – Oak Bluffs, MA

Dear Mr. Kessler:

At their meeting last night the Oak Bluffs Conservation Commission discussed your June 25, 2014 email to Town Administrator Robert Whritenour concerning changes to the Oak Bluffs fish pier.

The changes requested are as follows:

- Life sling
- Drop net
- Lights – self-contained solar lights on the inside posts of the pier
- Signage changes
- Bait cutting station(s)
- Water pump – salt water

The Commission voted to allow the modifications. The Oak Bluffs Pier Regulations do not allow lighting on piers but the Commission determined that this is an exception since it is a public pier, open 24 hours, and lighting is a safety issue.

Please note that the Martha's Vineyard Commission issued a permit for this pier and they will also have to address these proposed changes.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Durkee
Conservation Agent

Cc: R. Whritenour, Town Administrator
P. Foley, DRI Planner, MV Commission

MARTHA'S VINEYARD COMMISSION

Audience Attendance Sheet

Meeting Date: LUPC 8/11/14 Meeting No.:

| NAME | TOWN |
|---------------|-------------------------------|
| Jo Ann Taylor | MVC |
| Ross Kessler | Marine Fisheries |
| David Nash | Surfcaster Assoc. (Edgartown) |
| Don Scarpone | Surfcaster. 12 " |
| Mark London | MVC |
| Trip Byrnes | MVC |
| Fred Hancock | MVC |
| Jinny Sibley | MVC |
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