

WETLANDS BOARD

MINUTES

JULY 10, 1996

A. ROLL CALL

ABSENT

Mr. Jones
Mr. Waltrip
Mr. Gussman

Mr. Hughes
Mr. Lindsey

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacqueline White, Zoning
Jay Lipscomb, VMRC

B. MINUTES

Approval of the June 12, 1996 minutes were postponed until all members of the Board were present.

C. OLD BUSINESS

None

D. NEW BUSINESS

W-10-96; U.S. Department of Interior, Colonial National Historical Park

Jackie White presented the case stating that Mr. Jim Burnett, on behalf of the Colonial National Historical Park, has applied for a wetlands permit to repair an existing causeway and construct riprap revetment and place gabion baskets at the isthmus along the Colonial Parkway route to Jamestown Island. The property is further identified as parcel (1-1) found on James City County Real Estate Tax Map (56-1).

The property in question is along the James River. The isthmus is a manmade structure constructed to connect Jamestown Island with the mainland. The proposed construction is an effort by the National Park Service to stabilize and prevent erosion of the shoreline on the James River side of the isthmus. Representatives from Code Compliance visited on June 20, 1996. It is estimated that approximately 2500 square feet of tidal area will be impacted by this request.

Currently on the site there is a nonfunctional low profile bulkhead and broken concrete riprap providing limited erosion protection. There is a great deal of erosion occurring in several areas, trees are undercut and significant erosion is evident. The applicant intends to place gabion baskets behind the existing concrete riprap on either side of the James River/Back River inlet. The concrete slabs and debris along the shoreline is to be removed and the proposed riprap revetment installed.

It is staff's recommendation that the application be approved with the following conditions:

1. The toe of the filter cloth shall be buried no less than one foot.
2. A turbidity curtain is to be in place during construction of the entire project.
3. The disturbed areas shall be graded and reseeded.
4. All work shall be in accordance with the project documents titled "Colonial National Historical Park, erosion Protection Structure dated May 1996.
5. This permit shall expire July 10, 1997.

Mr. Gussman opened the public hearing.

Mr. Jim Burnett stated that original construction of the riprap for the isthmus took place in 1950 and in 1994 a northeaster caused some severe damage.

Mr. Jones asked how long the project would take.

Mr. Burnett stated approximately 30 to 45 days, and that they were looking to have the job completed by fall.

Mr. Waltrip asked if a contractor was to be hired or if the Park would be doing the work.

Mr. Burnett stated that they were in the process of hiring a contractor

Mr. Gussman closed the public hearing.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the permit with staff recommendations. Mr. Waltrip seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

W-11-96; Busch Properties

Jackie White presented the case stating that Joseph Cross, on behalf of Busch Properties, has applied for a wetlands permit to construct 150 linear feet of riprap revetment at 167 West Landing in the Kingsmill subdivision. The property is further identified as parcel (12-15) found on James City County Real Estate Tax Map (50-3).

The property in question is along the James River. Representatives from Code Compliance visited on July 1, 1996. It is estimated that approximately 2800 square feet of tidal area will be impacted by this request. The applicant intends to remove the existing broken concrete along the shoreline in order to place the proposed riprap structure. It is my understanding that Busch Properties has agreed to replace the existing concrete rubble with a properly designed riprap revetment structure as a condition of the sale of the property.

It is staff's recommendation that this application be approved with the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall steepen his fill slopes behind the revetment to limit the cleared and graded areas. Appropriate long lasting erosion control mats shall be used as recommended by the assigned erosion & Sediment Control Inspector.
2. Prior to clearing the access to the shore, the Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector shall review the location in the field and agree to the route.
3. A turbidity curtain is to be in place during construction of the entire project.
4. The toe of the filter cloth is to be buried no less than 1 foot.
5. An inspection of filter cloth must be made and approved by staff prior to overfilling with riprap.
6. This permit shall expire July 10, 1997.

Mr. Gussman asked for an explanation of condition one reference to steepen fill slopes.

Ms. White stated that Mr. Farmer had some concerns due to a cliff that drops off quickly.

Mr. Gussman opened the public hearing.

Jim Gunn stated that they would be having a 1.5:1 slope, that they cannot go steeper due to a scenic easement imposed by the National Park system. Mr. Gunn further commented that by doing a 1.5:1 slope they would not have to cut down a lot of trees.

Further discussions of staff recommendation #1 took place.

Mr. Gunn asked why an inspection of the filter cloth had to take place.

Mr. Gussman stated that the filter cloth is typically inspected in most cases. Mr. Gussman further stated that he would like the applicant to meet with staff to resolve recommendation #1 prior to work beginning.

Mr. Jones stated that he could not see a reason for the slope to be steepened, that in most cases you want to lessen the slope.

Mr. Gussman and Mr. Jones stated they would approve the permit if staff would mutually resolve the issue of recommendation #1 with the applicant.

Mr. Waltrip stated a lesser slope would be better and he would recommend approval.

Mr. Gunn stated that he did not want to wait for an inspector to have to come out and inspect the project, that it would cause unnecessary delays.

Mr. Waltrip stated that staff coordinate efforts with the applicant to assure quick response.

Mr. Gussman stated that he would like recommendation #1 to read applicant and staff shall mutually agree upon the appropriate slope behind the revetment to limit clear and graded areas.

Mr. Jones agreed with Mr. Gussman.

Mr. Lipscomb suggested that the applicant show the filter cloth on the side and above the revetment for inspection. Mr. Waltrip and Mr. Jones agreed.

Recommendation #5 was changed to read that applicant shall notify staff prior to overfilling with riprap.

Mr. Gussman closed the public hearing.

Mr. Jones moved to approve the permit with the amended changes, Mr. Waltrip seconded the motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

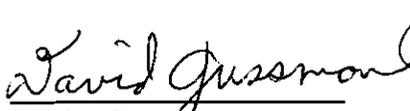
E. MATTERS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGE

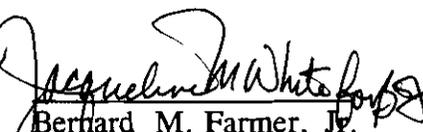
Ms. White advised the Board that VIMS is offering a home study course on wetlands and if the Board was interested she would obtain information and/or materials.

Mr. Hughes, Mr. Gussman and Mr. Waltrip stated they would be interested in obtaining the information.

F. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.


David Gussman
Acting Chairman


Bernard M. Farmer, Jr.
Secretary