

Minutes of the meeting of the High Level Monitoring Committee held on 17th February, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. at Darbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Mahabaleshwar.

Members present

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 1) | Shri. P.D.Karandikar | Chairman |
| 2) | Dr. Aparna Watve | Member |
| 3) | Dr. Ankur Patwardhan | Member |
| 4) | Shri. Ashwin Mudgal, Collector, Satara. | Member Secretary |

Other Officers :-

	Name	Designation
(1)	Shri. A.M.Anjankar	Deputy Conservator of Forest, Satara
(2)	Smt. Vaishali Chavan	Regional Manager, M.T.D.C., Pune
(3)	Smt. Asmita More	Sub-Divisional Officer, Wai
(4)	Shri. Shrikant Deshmukh	Assistant Director, Town Planning, Satara
(5)	Shri. P.M.Bhosale	Representative of Dy. Regional Officer, M.P.C.B., Satara
(6)	Shri. D.R.Thorat	Divisional Manager, M.S.R.T.C., Satara
(7)	Shri. Vilas Bhosale	Senior Geologist, G.S.D.A., Satara
(8)	Shri. Ramesh Shendage	Tahasildar, Mahabaleshwar
(9)	Shri. D.P.Shinde	Block Development Officer, Mahabaleshwar
(10)	Shri. S.D.Kulkarni	Range Forest Officer, Mahabaleshwar
(11)	Shri. Sachin Pawar	C.O., Mahabaleshwar Municipal Council
(12)	Smt. Vidya Pol	C.O., Panchgani Municipal Council
(13)	Shri. S.A.Kodak	Sub Divisional Engineer, M.G.P. Sub Division No.2, Panchgani
(14)	Shri. K.P.Mirajkar	Deputy Engineer, P.W.D., Mahabaleshwar
(15)	Shri. Prakash Sawant	Police Inspector, Mahabaleshwar
(16)	Shri. M.N.Mohite	Asst. Deputy Conservator of Forest, Satara
(17)	Shri. S.R.Malape	Dy. Ex. Engineer, M.S.E.B., Mahabaleshwar
(18)	Shri. H.S.Dhumal	Dy. Director, Social Forest Department,

At the outset, the Collector Satara and Member Secretary welcomed H.L.M.C. Chairman, members and officers present for the meeting.

1. The minutes of meeting held on 29th July, 2015 were confirmed with following modification At 2) action taken report

2.4 - Last line "The committee noted the development and decided that" is removed.

Para No.2.8 to read as The committee noted that a committee including Assistant Director, Town Planning, Satara, DFO and Chief Officers of both Municipal Councils under the chairmanship of Collector, Satara had studied the question of implementation of the 'Forest Alike' areas and that the Joint Director Town Planning Department had already submitted a detailed opinion on the subject. The Committee desired that the Committee chaired by the Collector Satara may continue the work of obtaining detailed maps of the areas declared as 'Forest Alike' areas and prepare a plan of action for implementation in the light of the report submitted by the Joint Director Town Planning. It was also decided that till completion of all the legal steps as outlined in the said Report of the Joint Director Town Planning, it may be advisable to process the applications for NA permissions or Building Permission under the existing normal rules & regulations. The Committee under the chairmanship of Collector, Satara should closely monitor and expedite the process of making suitable provisions in the regional plan and development plan. The progress in this behalf should be reviewed by the HLMC in every meeting in the future.

2.Action taken report on the decisions of the previous meetings :-

2.1 Tourism Master Plan :-

The Assistant Director, Town Planning, Satara has submitted his report to the Collector Satara suggesting some technical modifications in the Draft Tourism Master Plan. HLMC had also noted earlier that a Traffic Management Plan should be prepared and it should be incorporated in the

Master Tourism Plan. The Committee desired that M.T.D.C. should make necessary modifications in the Tourism Master Plan and submit it to the Government after scrutinizing said the said modifications, Accordingly, the Collector, Satara shall forward the report submitted by Assistant Director, Town Planning Satara as well as the Traffic Management Plan to the Regional Manager, M.T.D.C., Pune for scrutinizing and making necessary modifications. The Chairman desired that the 'action taken report' may be placed before HLMC in the next meeting.

2.2 About the Panchgani Table Land :-

On the query made by the Chairman in respect of action taken about the development works to be completed on Panchgani Table Land in accordance with the orders of the Hon'ble High Court, Mumbai, the Chief Officer, Panchgani stated that, for completion of said entire work, an amount of approximately Rs.6 Crores is required and said grants are not yet made available by the Government. The Chairman desired that the development works may be prioritized and taken up depending on availability of funds. The Municipal Council could also consider starting some works from its own funds. 'Action Taken report' to be submitted in the next meeting.

2.3 Illegal Construction at Village Dandeghar Sr.No.87/1D :-

It was reported that the property holder Mr.Dilip Kalambe has instituted Civil Suit bearing No.519/2015 in the Court of the Civil Judge, Senior Division, Satara against the order of Sub-Divisional Officer, Wai in respect demolition of unauthorized construction. So also Smt.Varsha Kalambe has complained about unauthorized construction made by Gajanan Kalambe and Ranchandra Kalambe in the said property. On inquiry, it is observed that construction is made without permission. The Hon'ble Chairman directed that, if both these constructions can be regularized as per rules, necessary action may be taken otherwise action for demolishing the offending portions may be taken as per rules at the earliest and the 'action taken report' may be submitted to HLMC.

2.4 Application of Debi Goenka – PWD on Duchess Road Illegal Tree Cutting and construction on Blue Valley :-

The Committee requested the Sub-Divisional Officer, Wai to submit report of factual position to the complainant and to HLMC.

2.5 S.No.527 A/3 Taighat, Green Zone :-

The Chief Officer, Municipal Council, Panchgani stated that, presently the construction in the property under question is stopped and concerned persons have been asked to submit revised construction plans. On receipt of revised plans, scrutiny will be made and action will be taken as per rules. Further developments will be reported to HLMC in the next meeting.

2.6 Plastic Garbage in Forest Area :-

The Committee desired that the Chief Officers of both the Municipal Councils may prepare informative pamphlets in English and Marathi informing the tourists about "Do's and Dont's" in the eco-sensitive zone and distribute the same to all the vehicles at toll booths. Similarly a public awareness campaign may be launched by distributing said pamphlets amongst the Taxi and Rickshaw owners/drivers for affixing them on visible portion in their vehicles. 'Action Taken Report' to be placed before HLMC in the next meeting.

2.7 Proposal of Kokanratna Holiday Resort Ltd. For performance License of Amusement Park :-

The concerned Developer informed during the Open Session that, the necessary modifications as directed by the H.L.M.C. and concerned authorities have been made in the property under question since 2010. He had also submitted written undertaking about withdrawal of Civil Suit from the Civil Court. It was brought to the notice of HLMC that, as the Civil Suit was pending in respect of said property, performance license is not being issued, The Committee desired that the Collector, Satara may scrutinize the documents submitted by the applicant and get the terms and conditions complied from the applicant and take proper decision as per rules in respect of granting Performance License. 'Action Taken Report' to be submitted in the next meeting.

3.1 Presentation on proposal for Mapping of ESZ by Mr.Prasad

Kulkarni doing PhD at COEP :-

Mr. Prasad Kulkarni, PhD student from the College of Engineering Pune, made presentation on the concept 'Land Use Land Cover (LULC)'. He made presentation of the facilities like observing change/difference in respect of trees, water source, land usage, civilization, roads etc. of any particular land as on today compared to the position of said facts before 10 years in the said land from the Google Map Images and the Satellite Data. He informed that it will take a period of approximately one year for completion of the said project. The Report will clearly bring out the comparative picture of the position before H.L.M.C. came into existence and the present status of developments. H.L.M.C. welcomed the said Research Project. It was desired that, Smt. Watave and Shri. Patwardhan, the members of H.L.M.C., being experts on the said subject, should provide the necessary guidance and advise while preparing the Research Proposal. The Committee desired that that the College of Engineering Pune and the Bio-Diversity Department of Garware College, Pune should undertake the work jointly. As regards grants required for the said project, the Collector of Satara informed that there was a provision in the District Plan for taking up 'innovative projects' and it would be possible to provide the necessary funds for this Research Project from the said provision. He asked Mr Kulkarni to submit a detailed Project Proposal to the District Planning Officer, Satara for further necessary action regarding release of grants. 'Action Taken Report' will be submitted to HLMC in the next meeting.

3.2 Regarding permission of De Forestation of Polo Ground and Temporary Permission to play the Game of Polo at Polo Ground :-

The Chairman stated that based on some newspaper reports, he had requested the Member Secretary to place this item on the agenda of the meeting. The Collector's Office had circulated a note in Marathi on the subject to the members of HLMC.

Shri. Mahadev Mohite, Assistant Deputy Conservator of Forest, Satara informed that 'Polo Ground' is the land of Forest Department and provisions

of the Forest Act are applicable to it. The District Sports Officer Satara had requested the Forest Department to allow conduct of the Exhibition Game of Polo in the first instance in April 2016 and thereafter the said ground may be handed over to the Sports Department permanently for the purpose of using it as a Polo Ground on a regular basis after processing the case under the normal rules & regulations of the Forest Department.

The Chairman stated that the members of H.L.M.C, had visited the land in question and made following observations:-

(a) The approach road to the said ground is narrow and it may be necessary to widen the said road.

(b) There was only one approach road. VIPs are likely to attend the Exhibition Game and from the point of view of security of VIP, it may be desirable to have separate entry and exit routes. In the matter of VIP security the Police Department may examine the proposal to conduct Exhibition Game in April 2016 from the point of VIP security, The Exhibition Game should not be held without prior 'security clearance' from the Police authorities. As regards the permanent arrangements for use of Polo Ground also the Police Department should inform the Forest Department about the terms & conditions to be stipulated.

(c) The land in question is Forest land as well as it is Heritage Class-I property. Therefore, if the said land is to be transferred to the Sport Department permanently or even temporarily for conducting the Exhibition Game of Polo, the rules and regulations of Heritage will be applicable to such transfer of land and therefore, approval of the Heritage Committee will be required.

(d) The land in question is Forest land surrounded by thick forest with habitations of wild life and therefore the Forest Department needs to ensure that the Wild Life pathways are not disturbed during development and use of the Polo Ground.

(e) The proposal should also clarify whether felling of any trees was involved.

(f) The Forest Department should also verify whether prior approval of MoEF would be required for preparing the Polo Ground for Exhibition Game.

(g) While transferring the ground to the Sports Department, suitable terms and conditions should be imposed and it should be clearly stipulated that if any of the rules and regulations for Heritage, ESZ and Regional Development Plan are violated, the permission issued shall be revoked and the said land shall revert back into possession of the Forest Department.

(h) All these aspects should be covered in the proposal to be submitted by the Forest Department to HLMC for transfer of the said land with a clear statement of terms & conditions to be imposed.

The DFO Satara informed that MoEF has clarified that even land leveling on a temporary basis requires prior permission of MoEF under the Forest Act.

Efforts were being made to prepare and submit the necessary proposal to MoEF for permission to conduct the Exhibition Game in April 2016.

It was noted by HLMC that the time available for completing all the formalities was short and the tenure of the present HLMC was coming to an end. After the new HLMC is nominated by MoEF, the proposal from the Forest Department will be scrutinized by the new HLMC and its remarks / recommendations will be communicated to MoEF. The Forest Department was requested to submit the said proposal to HLMC as well as the Heritage Committee even for temporary permission to hold Exhibition Game. Further developments shall be reviewed in the next meeting of HLMC.

The Committee noted that the question of granting provisional approval by the present HLMC on 'ad hoc' basis does not arise because no definite and formal proposal has been placed before HLMC.

3.3 Discussion about Proposal received for Commercial N.A. purpose at Metgutad, Tal. Mahabaleshwar S.No.19A/13 and 19A/10 :-

It was reported that the Divisional Commissioner, Pune had issued permission in the year 1985 to the proposal regarding grant of revised N.A. and construction permission in respect of S.No.19A/10 and 19A/13 at village

Metgutad, Tal. Mahabaleshwar. As per said order, applicant has made construction in the property in question. However, as there were some changes out of the approved plan, revised permission was sought. In the said matter, the Assistant Director, Town Planning, Satara has issued recommendation to the revised N.A. and construction plan. In the said recommendation letter, as per condition No.26, it was mentioned that for regularizing the revised construction in the said land, it will be proper to take guidance of the H.L.M.C. as per jurisdiction and purpose of its establishment. Therefore, the said matter was put up before the H.L.M.C. The A.D.T.P., Forest and Revenue department informed that there was no objection to issue revised N.A. and construction permission. The committee approved the proposal with condition that no additional F.S.I. would be permissible.

3.4 Discussion about proposal received from Shripal Morakhiva in the Buffer Zone area for Commercial N.A. purpose at Vahagaon, Tal. Jaoli S.No.529 & others :-

It was reported that an application regarding grant of N.A. and construction permission in respect of S.No.529 & others at village Vahagaon, Tal. Jaoli, is received. The property in question is situated in the Buffer Zone adjacent to the Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani ESZ regional area. The said property is situated at the height of 1000 meters from sea level and applicant is intending to establish a health center for treatment of Cancer patients as 'Prakruti Health Resort'. The committee opined that the aims & objects of the proposed construction were praise worthy but it was not clear whether HLMC has any jurisdiction over the 'buffer-zone' Moreover, the work of framing and publishing the Development Control Rules for the 'Buffer Zone' is yet to be completed. The Committee desired that the concerned officials should carefully examine and verify the necessary legal aspects and take decision in accordance with rules. The Committee further observed that the work of notifying the Development Control Rules for the buffer zone was unduly delayed and requested the Town Planning Department to expedite the same.

3.5 Discussion about the remarks received from the Divisional Commissioner, Pune about Mahabaleshwar C.T.S.No.211 & 212 Hotel Le Meridian :-

As per directions issued in last meeting, Collector Satara had submitted factual report in the matter vide its letter dated 22/04/2015 to the Divisional Commissioner, Pune. The Divisional Commissioner, Pune vide letter dated 17/10/2015 has informed that it was not necessary for the Commissioner's office to offer comments on the report submitted by the Collector of Satara and that the H.L.M.C. may take suitable decision in this regard. HLMC noted the contents of the letter from the Divisional Commissioner, Pune. Since the Divisional Commissioner has declined to offer any remarks, the H.L.M.C. decided to take on record the report submitted by the Collector of Satara and close the issue. The Committee requested the Collector to give a suitable reply to the complainants and report compliance in the next meeting of HLMC.

3.6 Presentation by Mr.J.K.Bhosale, CEO of City Corporation Ltd. reg Smart City of Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani :-

Chief Officer, Mahabaleshwar informed that, correspondence is made with Mr. J.K. Bhosale on the subject of the the project of Smart City. However the Municipal Council has not received necessary proposal from him. The Committee desired that the suggestions in respect of Smart City may be considered and acted upon, if deemed proper and expedient by the concerned Municipal Councils.

3.7 Need for starting the constitution of Local Biodiversity management committees in MPESZ area as per Biodiversity Act.

The Chief Officer, Mahabaleshwar reported that the Municipal Council has already constituted Local Biodiversity Management Committee in accordance with the orders of the Government. It is informed that, as per directions of the Government first meeting has been conducted by electing the members of the committee. The Chief Officer, Municipal Council, Panchgani informed that Bio-Diversity committee is not yet constituted in

Panchgani. HLMC desired that the Chief Officer, Panchgani should take steps to get the committee constituted at an earliest in consultation with the Chief Officer, Mahabaleshwar. Both the Chief Officers were further requested to arrange orientation & training programme for members of the Bio Diversity Committees under guidance from Smt. Watave and Shri. Patwardhan, who were experts in this field. Action Taken report may be submitted to HLMC.

4.1 Application of Shri. Shiraj K. Sataravala – About cutting of trees and shrubs by Forest Department :-

Shri. Shiraj K. Sataravala had filed complaint about cutting of trees and shrubs by the Forest Department in forest area. However, Range Forest Officer, Mahabaleshwar has brought to the notice of applicant that no such illegal act is being done by the Forest Department. Thereafter Shri. Sataravala informed about withdrawal of said complaint vide email dated 17/02/2016.

4.2 Application of Shri. Shiraj K. Sataravala – About Plastic Waste Collection from Forest Area :-

In accordance with the complaint of Shri. Shiraj K. Sataravala about plastic waste collection from forest area, it is informed that efforts for plastic waste collection are being taken from time to time through the cooperation of Municipal Councils and local public. So also the Forest Department informed that a special awareness program is conducted on 3rd of each month with the cooperation of concerned Municipal Councils, NGOs, Government Departments and Hotel unions. The Committee desired that Mr. Shiraj K. Sataravala may be invited on said occasion of special awareness program.

4.3 Proposal of Dy. Director, Social Forest Department, Satara regarding NOC for Chainlink Fencing and Compound at Forest Plot No.69 and 70 :-

Shri. Dhumal, Deputy Director, Social Forestry, Satara made a detailed presentation in this regard. He informed that, the Forest Department has chosen the said land for development of 'bio diversity park'. The main

objective of the project is preservation and promotion of the gene-pools of various species of trees, plants, crops, flowers, medicinal herbs, birds, insects, bees, butter-fly etc. He requested HLMC to approve erection of a chain-link fence of approx. 934 meters length and wired fencing of approximately 3950 meters length as it was necessary to protect certain portions of the project-area. The Committee welcomed the project and made the following suggestions:- (a) this park should not contain any exotic varieties of plants but use only local and adaptable varieties. (b) adequate and proper arrangements may be made for students and other visitors in such a manner that they can learn about the principles of bio-diversity without creating any nuisance for the flora and fauna . Mr. Dhumal agreed with the suggestions and stated that he will submit the detailed proposal, its cost, with details of flora, fauna, pathways for wild life, approach road to the villages etc. in the next meeting.

4.4 Regarding Christ Church Heritage building illegal construction :-

Dr. Watve informed the Committee that she had visited the old 'Christ Church' which was a Heritage property. She found that some work of unauthorized construction and vehicle parking was in progress behind the said building. The Chief Officer, Mahabaleshwar was requested to visit the site , inspect the unauthorized developments and take appropriate action. 'Action Taken Report' to be submitted in the next meeting.

4.5 Regarding permission for making Local roads and drinking water pipe lines in Forest Area :-

During the open session, some villagers had complained about delay in granting permission by the Forest Department for repairing some existing village-roads and water pipe lines passing through the Forest area. The Committee requested the Forest Department to look into the matter and take decision at an earliest. Action Taken Report to be submitted in the next meeting.

4.6 Regarding permission of De Forestation at the Bottom of Kille Pratapgarh for the purpose Parking

It was reported that large number of domestic and foreign tourists visiting the Pratapgarh fort were facing great inconvenience due to lack of proper arrangements for parking vehicles and therefore the forest land at S.No.1A admeasuring about 60 R is proposed to be covered into a parking lot. The Forest Department informed that de-forestation of said land is necessary for making it available for parking area. The Committee requested the Forest Department to prepare a detailed proposal and submit the same in the next meeting.

4.7 Regarding Sub Committee meeting for H.L.M.C. :-

H.L.M.C. noted that the Government in U.D.D. have published the Regional Plan for Mahabaleshwar-Panchgani Region vide Notification No. TPS-1915/PK15/15/Mshwar Prayo/Navi-13, dated 07/08/2015. It was felt that H.L.M.C. needs to communicate detailed remarks and observations to the Government in U.D.D. and MoEF. It was decided to constitute a Sub-Committee of HLMC consisting of the following members for this purpose.

1. Shri.P.D.Karandikar
2. Dr. Aparna Watave
3. Dr. Ankur Patwardhan

The sub-committee decided to hold a meeting at Pune on 18/02/2016 and communicate their views and observations on the notified Final Regional Development Plan to HLMC , UDD and MoEF.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks for the Chair.

Member Secretary,
High Level Monitoring Committee
& Collector, Satara

Chairman,
High Level Monitoring Committee

[Note :

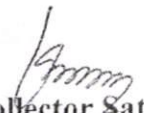
1. Draft of the Minutes has been approved by the Chairman. The minutes will be discussed & confirmed in the next meeting of HLMC.
2. The concerned agencies should start taking appropriate action on the decisions recorded herein above and submit compliance reports to

3. The members may also send their suggestions for amendments / additions / alterations in the draft minutes to R.D.C., Satara for placing the same before the next meeting of H! ^4C.]

Collector's Office, Satara.
No.RB/Mwar/LND/WS/287/16
Satara: - 04/03/2016

To

2/- For information and necessary action.


For Collector Satara