

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, JULY 24, 2014**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Paul Alpert (Chair), Janet Carter Bernardo, Artie Crocker, Peter Oehlkers, Matt Varrell (Conservation Director), Debbie Anderson (Conservation Specialist)

GUESTS: Paul Beaulieu, Gene Bolinger, Edward Olsen, Brendon Riley

P. Alpert opened the public meeting at 7:36pm.

MINUTES:

ENFORCEMENT & VIOLATION UPDATES:

130 SOUTH STREET

As discussed at the previous meeting, M. Varrell reported that the Commission has not received the after-the-fact Notice of Intent application required from Mrs. Sokolove despite numerous correspondence and deadline extensions. M. Varrell had drafted an affidavit as a means to record the existing Enforcement Order with the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds. P. Alpert had reviewed and revised the document and Town Counsel reviewed the document as well. A. Crocker suggested that M. Varrell try and contact Mrs. Sokolove once more prior to recording the E.O. The Commission determined that Mrs. Sokolove has had ample opportunity to communicate with the Conservation Department. M. Varrell will send a letter and a copy of the Affidavit to Mrs. Sokolove after it has been recorded.

J. Carter Bernardo made a motion for M. Varrell to record the revised Enforcement Order Affidavit at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds for 130 South Street, seconded by P. Oehlkers, approved 4-0-0.

120 CHARLES RIVER STREET

As discussed at the previous meeting, M. Varrell had observed unauthorized dumping of landscaping debris and storage of various materials (including a small cord wood storage shed) on town owned land immediately adjacent to Walker Pond within the 25-foot Buffer Zone to Bank. The homeowner, Robert Kiel, was advised to remove the storage items and landscaped debris by M. Varrell. M. Varrell conducted a site visit prior to the meeting and found that progress had been made. M. Varrell noted the homeowner had a deadline of August 14, 2014 to complete the removal.

62 BROOKSIDE ROAD

M. Varrell reported that he had spoken with J. Rockwood earlier in the day. J. Rockwood explained that there had been additional delays and the Applicant would not make the July 31, 2014 filing deadline but plan on filing by the August 14, 2014 deadline. M. Varrell clarified that the homeowner had cut down numerous trees in the Commission's jurisdiction, without a permit from the Conservation Commission. Paul Beaulieu of Field Resources, Inc. was in the audience and offered to clarify one of the reasons for the delay in filing the Notice of Intent. Field Resources had been retained to provide the site plan. He explained the extent of field work needed to complete the plan is extensive due to the number of stumps to field locate, difficult terrain to traverse in locating wetland resource flags and difficulty determining the property boundaries due to an ancient right-of-way. P. Alpert agreed with M. Varrell that the filing needs to be received by August 14, 2014 to be heard at the August 28, 2014 hearing or Enforcement action may be justified. P. Alpert added that if J. Rockwood can not submit the filing by August 14th that

J. Rockwood and the property owner should attend the August 14th hearing to explain the causes of delay to the Commission.

HEARINGS

0 MAP HILL ROAD/0 FOREST STREET (DEP FILE #234-717) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

P. Alpert opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. M. Varrell stated that the Applicant had requested a continuance to the August 14, 2014 Conservation Commission Meeting.

Motion to continue the public hearing to August 14, 2014 at 7:45 pm, as requested by the Applicant, for 0 Map Hill Road/0 Forest Street (DEP File #234-717), by J. Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Oehlkers, approved 4-0-0.

122 GROSVENOR ROAD (DEP FILE #234-718) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

P. Alpert opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m. Paul Beaulieu of Field Resources, Inc. represented the Applicant. M. Varrell noted that the Commission had received additional information on the project earlier in the day. Per the Commission's request, the grading was revised to change the proposed slope from a 1:1 slope to a 2:1 slope. P. Beaulieu explained the intent of the proposed project was not to flatten the yard but to smooth it out using excess soil from the foundation excavation. J. Carter Bernardo asked where the roof leaders were to be discharged, as the neighbor has expressed concern about runoff onto their property. M. Varrell stated that the proposed house is located outside of the Commission's jurisdiction. P. Beaulieu explained the reason for the proposed 18-inch cherry tree removal in the southwest corner of the property is that the tree is not healthy and is in the way of the proposed fence. He noted that two trees are proposed to replace the single tree to be removed. P. Alpert pointed out that the proposed location shown on the Plan for one of the replacement trees may be too close to an existing 21-inch maple tree. M. Varrell stated the proposed tree locations could be the subject of a Special Condition in the Order of Conditions.

Motion to close the public hearing for 122 Grosvenor Road (DEP File #234-718) by J. Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Oehlkers, approved 4-0-0.

Motion to issue the Order of Conditions, as amended, for 122 Grosvenor Road (DEP File #234-718) by J. Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Oehlkers, approved 4-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

1133 SOUTH STREET (DEP File #234-688) – MINOR MODIFICATION REQUEST

Paul Beaulieu of Field Resources represented the Applicant. He explained the proposed project, describing that the original design for the septic area was located to the rear of the house. Several difficulties arose with this placement including issues with the electric company easement and construction of a retaining wall. The Applicant now proposes to build the septic area in the front of the house. P. Beaulieu explained that with the decommissioning and crushing of the existing D box, which will only take one day, only a silt fence is proposed as a limit-of-work boundary and erosion control. He added that the house provides most of the buffer to the wetland for the installation of the new septic. The Applicant proposes to install haybales along the 25-foot buffer for the installation of the leaching field.

P. Beaulieu noted that the original plan called for the removal of an existing willow tree, but due to the proposed changes, the removal will no longer be necessary. J. Carter Bernardo pointed out that the plan submitted shows an arrow going to the leaching field labeled as the "D Box" which is incorrect. P. Beaulieu stated this was a scrivener's error. The tank located closer to the house will also be crushed and filled with sand. M. Varrell noted that the proposed silt fence may not be necessary.

Motion to approve the minor modification to the plans for 1133 South Street (DEP File #234-672) by J. Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Oehlkers, approved 4-0-0.

19 PHEASANT ROAD (DEP File #234-704) – REVIEW OF RIVERFRONT AREA RESTORATION PLAN

Paul Beaulieu of Field Resources represented the Applicant. P. Beaulieu submitted revised Plans to the Commission reflective of changes suggested by M. Varrell regarding the spacing and location of the proposed plantings. The Commission had been concerned about the date of the base plan used for the Restoration Plan. P. Beaulieu clarified that the Restoration Plan is intended to stand alone as the planting plan. M. Varrell suggested that during the required pre-construction on-site meeting with the contractor, the Conservation staff could ask to be notified prior to the planting installations so they have a chance to see the plants laid out and can suggest modifications to the planting locations, if necessary.

Motion to accept the Riverfront Area Restoration Plan dated July 17, 2014 by J. Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Oehlkers, approved 4-0-0.

NEWMAN PLAYING FIELDS & EASTMAN CONSERVATION AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – INFORMAL PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION

Edward Olsen, Superintendent of the Parks and Forestry Division and Gene Bolinger and Brendon Riley of Weston & Sampson described the proposed project. E. Olsen stated that the playing fields are constantly wet, making utilization of the fields difficult, especially in the spring. The Town is hoping to alleviate the issues with the playing field drainage by raising some areas and lowering others, as well as improve the Eastman Conservation Area facilities. G. Bolinger explained that the proposed project is really a combination of two separate projects, one being the Newman Playing Field improvements and the other the Eastman Conservation Area improvements.

G. Bolinger stated that they hope to create a Plan that would make the area more friendly to intergenerational users by adding some shade trees to the perimeter of the field, creating easier access to the field from the parking area, creating footpaths around the field and perhaps remove some of the invasive multiflora rose growing along the outskirts of the field to create more of a vista to the existing wetlands.

G. Bolinger stated that the wetland flagging has been completed and preliminary plans are being developed. A portion of the playing fields are located in the 100-foot Buffer Zone and portions are located within the FEMA Flood Zone. The proposed project would maintain the field within the same footprint but adjust the grading and improve soil conditions to aid the drainage.

The second part of the project involves improvements to the Eastman Conservation Area. G. Bolinger described the area as having multiple teaching opportunity “environmental zones” in a small area including: complex wetlands; a pond; rock outcroppings and an upland meadow. Brendon Riley explained the proposed project is a refurbishment of the existing assets, not an expansion. The main focus would be the replacement of the existing two-decker “bog bridge”. Signage and “teaching moments” are proposed in different areas. They want to make the trail system as accessible as possible, although it does not have to be ADA compliant. One proposed boardwalk scheme widens the boardwalk to 4-feet and adds “bump outs” to allow for “teaching moments” and passing. G. Bolinger and B. Riley described various scenarios to refurbish the Conservation Area.

J. Carter Bernardo asked who is on the project team, specifically are there any science teachers from the Newman School on the team. E. Olsen replied that there are members of the science center on the team. B. Riley noted that the meadow area is not currently used due to the plant “spurge” which can affect people with a latex allergy. The existing dock is located directly over the stream outlet. The Commission discussed where the funding for the project would come from and what areas are jurisdictional to the

Commission. M. Varrell noted that he thought the project would be great to draw young people out into the wetland to gain appreciation of the wetland ecosystem. J. Carter Bernardo expressed concern regarding DEP approval of the project and noted Town funding for the project may be difficult to attain. M. Varrell suggested perhaps he could set up an informal meeting with the DEP Circuit Rider to get input prior to final project permitting.

P. Alpert asked what the timing of the project is. G. Bolinger replied they were hoping to begin permitting the project through Conservation in the Fall of 2014. A CPC application would be submitted in December of 2014 and they would look to bid the project early next year and begin the project in spring 2015. The two projects would be timed differently due to the school schedule. There is a possibility of bidding the two projects separately. J. Carter Bernardo mentioned that homeowners with property adjacent to the field and across the pond will want assurance that proposed drainage changes will not result in flooding of their property.

RIDGE HILL WALKS – FALL

M. Varrell explained that P. Carey is putting together a brochure regarding walks in the fall and asked if the Commission would like to advertise the walks in the Park & Rec brochure. The Commission discussed continuing the walks through the fall. M. Varrell stated the Commission had some time to decide before the next Meeting.

RIDGE HILL – TEMPORARY BOULDER STORAGE LOCATION

M. Varrell explained that he had spoken to DPW to discuss obtaining the boulders in lieu of the proposed fencing along the drive to Ridge Hill. DPW will be renting equipment for a project at the RTS and could use the opportunity to move the boulders to Ridge Hill. There will likely be a delay between delivery or the boulders to Ridge Hill and when they can be spread out to their final locations. Based on a site visit, M. Varrell is proposing storing the boulders on either side of the driveway near the Ridge Hill entrance. One side of the driveway is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to BVW and the other is outside of jurisdiction. The Commission instructed M. Varrell to have the DPW deliver the boulders to the location outside of the 100-foot Buffer Zone.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by J. Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Oehlkers, approved 4-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.

NEXT PUBLIC HEARING

Thursday, August 14, 2014 at 7:30 PM in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.