

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 16, 2008**

LOCATION: Eliot School Media Center

ATTENDING: Lisa Standley, Paul Alpert, Janet Bernardo, Dawn Stolfi Stalenhoef, Marsha Salett (arrived at 8:45), Kristen Phelps (Agent)

GUESTS: Verne Porter, Joe White, Bob Smart, George Smirnov, Kevin McCune, Tim Hood, Paul DeSimone, Matt Hughes, Julie Stearns, Paul Truax, Kathy McNeil

L. Standley opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

823 CHARLES RIVER STREET (DEP File # 234-541) – Notice of Intent

L. Standley opened the continued public hearing at 7:45 p.m. Verne Porter was present on behalf of the property owner. J. Bernardo stated that the hearing had been continued to allow for a site visit at the request of C. Shapiro. As proposed, the project meets the performance standards under the Act and Bylaw, however the new structure is located closer to the wetland than the existing house. K. Phelps stated that the draft Order of Conditions contains a provision prohibiting disturbance (mowing, etc.) within 25 feet of the resource area. **Motion to close the public hearing for DEP File #234-541 by Paul Alpert, seconded by Janet Bernardo, approved 4-0-0.** The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions. **Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File #234-541 (as modified) by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 4-0-0.**

449 SOUTH STREET (DEP File # 234-543) – Notice of Intent

L. Standley opened the continued public hearing at 7:55 p.m. Property owner Joseph White was accompanied by attorney Robert Smart. R. Smart stated that a revised plan reflecting the changes that the Commission requested at the initial hearing on this matter had been submitted along with a letter describing each of the modifications. The revised plan reflects the removal of six trees, a reduction in the size of the proposed lawn, permanent marking of the limits of lawn, and designation of the additional areas on the property that will be protected through a deed restriction. **Motion to close the public hearing for DEP File #234-543 by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 4-0-0.** The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions. **Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File #234-543 (as modified) by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert approved 4-0-0.**

60 BLAKE STREET – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 8:10 p.m. Property owner George Smirnov was present. He stated that the proposed project involves constructing a second story deck on sona tubes. The deck will be constructed within existing lawn which extends approximately 30 feet off the back of the house. The Commission noted that bordering vegetated wetlands are not shown on the plan. K. Phelps stated that the wetlands are associated with an intermittent stream that runs through the abutting High Rock School property. The yard area where the work is proposed is level and only minimal soil disturbance for the sona tubes is proposed. **Motion to close the public hearing for 60 Blake Street by Paul Alpert, seconded by Janet Bernardo, approved 4-0-0. Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability by Paul Alpert, seconded by Janet Bernardo, approved 4-0-0.**

649 SOUTH STREET – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 8:20 p.m. Kevin McCune of NSTAR was present on behalf of the property owner. He explained the proposed project which involves installing a gas service line to the house through the existing lawn area within 100 feet of a locally jurisdictional stream. He stated that the trenching for the proposed 1” gas line will result in minimal disturbance; is more than 25 feet from the proposed work area; and should not take longer than two days to complete. **Motion to close the public hearing for 649 South Street by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 4-0-0. Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 4-0-0.**

25 GREEN STREET (Needham Golf Club) – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 8:30 p.m. Tim Hood was present to represent the Needham Golf Club. He explained the proposed project which involves reconfiguration of the second tee. Some grading will be required to connect the separate tee boxes which currently exist, and the area will be sodded immediately upon completion. The project is expected to take approximately one week and silt fence will be installed downgradient of the work. T. Hood stated that the resource areas include an asphalt pond fed by a stream which is also lined with asphalt. L. Standley asked how much of a change in grade was being proposed at the tee box and whether it would change the slope off the edge of the tee. T. Hood replied that the tee would be raised about 18 inches and that the slope would remain a 3:1 slope. **Motion to close the public hearing for 25 Green Street by Paul Alpert, seconded by Janet Bernardo, approved 4-0-0. Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 4-0-0.**

25 WARE ROAD (DEP File # 234-544) – Notice of Intent

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 8:40 p.m. The application was reviewed under the MA Wetlands Protection Act only, as work will occur within Riverfront Area but outside of the 100-foot buffer zone. Property owner Matt Hughes was accompanied by Paul DeSimone of Colonial Engineering. P. DeSimone explained the proposed project which involves the redevelopment of a single-family house lot. Only a portion of the new house (7.5 square feet) falls within the last few feet of the Riverfront Area associated with Rosemary Brook which runs through armored banks to the southwest of the property. The proposed work is separated from the brook by two single-family house lots. With the exception of the 7.5 feet of new impervious surface (porch), the property will be returned to pre-construction conditions (lawn & landscaping). **Motion to close the public hearing for DEP File #234-544 by Marsha Salett, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 5-0-0.** The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions. **Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File #234-544 (as modified) by Paul Alpert, seconded by Marsha Salett, approved 5-0-0.**

ROUTE 128 ADD-A-LANE – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation

L. Standley recused herself from the hearing on this matter. K. Phelps stated that DEP had not yet issued a file number for this project. P. Alpert opened the public hearing at 9:00 p.m. Julie Stearns of ENSR was present on behalf of Mass Highway. She reviewed the eighteen resource areas identified by ENSR consultants within the 128 highway layout from a point 2,200 feet north of the railroad bridge between Great Plain Avenue and Kendrick Street north to the Needham Wellesley line. The Commission voted unanimously to hire a third party consultant to review the resource area delineation. They further agreed to request (of the Town Manager) that the peer review be funded out of the Wetland Protection account. **Motion to continue the public hearing for the 128 Add-a-Lane project to 7:45 p.m. on November 13, 2008 by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Marsha Salett, approved 5-0-0.**

145 WEBSTER STREET (DEP File # 234-545) – Notice of Intent

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 9:20 p.m. Kathy McNeil of Delta Projects, Inc. was accompanied by Paul Truax of GLM Engineering. P. Truax explained the proposed project which involves constructing a new deck and handicapped access ramps within the 100-foot buffer zone. All work will occur within existing lawn, and erosion controls will be installed on the downgradient side of the existing paved driveway (to allow for construction access). L. Standley noted that the BVW data forms lacked the required specificity (noting upland grasses without identifying species).

Motion to close the public hearing for DEP File #234-545 by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 5-0-0. The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions. **Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for DEP File #234-545 (as modified) by Janet Bernardo, approved 5-0-0.**

5 WOODS END (DEP File # 234-546) – Notice of Intent

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 9:30 p.m. Paul Truax of GLM Engineering was present on behalf of the applicant. He explained the proposed project which involves constructing a 24' x 34' addition to an existing single-family house and creating a driveway spur and small siltation basin. The project will result in an increase of 371 square feet of impervious surface within the 100-foot buffer zone. At the closest point work will be approximately 51 feet from the BVW. The addition will be constructed in an area that is currently driveway, and the driveway spur will occupy an area that is now lawn. The Applicant is also proposing a small cluster of plantings between the driveway/basin and the resource area. L. Standley expressed concern about what would happen to sediment in the basin in large storms. The Commission asked P. Truax to consider adding a stone filter trench at the end of the driveway spur to slow runoff and capture sediment. M. Salett stated that bearberry is not a desirable species for this location and asked the Applicant to consider alternative plantings. L. Standley suggested that the hearing be continued for submission of an assessor's map showing abutters within 300 feet of the property and a revised plan showing (1) a filter trench at the end of the driveway spur, (2) a higher density of plantings with more suitable species; and (3) erosion controls confined to the subject property. **Motion to continue the public hearing for DEP File # 234-546 to 8:15 p.m. on October 30, 2008 by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Marsha Salett, approved 5-0-0.**

COMMISSION ACTIONS

24 BROOKSIDE ROAD (DEP File # 234-531) – Request for Certificate of Compliance

K. Phelps stated that the property owners had submitted a Request for Certificate of Compliance in the spring which was denied due to inadequate grass growth over the new septic system. The property owners over-seeded the area and the lawn now provides sufficient stabilization. **Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP File # 234-531 by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 4-0-0.**

GENERIC TRAILS MAINTENANCE PERMIT – Trail Work at Ridge Hill

K. Phelps stated that the Olin College students, led by Professor Allen Downey, asked for permission – under the new Negative Determination of Applicability for Trail Maintenance Projects – to undertake work on the trail system at Ridge Hill. The request was limited to removing vegetation and fallen trees, and potentially installing kiosks. No boardwalks or other features are proposed under this request. K. Phelps will work with the group on the specified dates. **The Commission unanimously agreed to approve the proposed work under the Generic Trails Maintenance Negative Determination of Applicability.**

26 MEADOWBROOK ROAD (DEP File # 234-530) – Request for Minor Modification

Petitioners Liz and Gerry Goldman were not present; however, they had submitted a letter requesting relief from the permit requirement requiring a drywell to the rear of the proposed addition and an

extension of time for planting the restoration area (next to Rosemary Brook). The Commission discussed the arguments made in the letter, and agreed that in the interest of protecting the large Pin Oak, and due to the post-construction site conditions (no significant change and grade, distance to stream) the drywell could be excluded from the site design. They further agreed that the planting timeline could be extended until May of 2009. **Motion to approve the proposed changes as a minor modification to the Order of Conditions for DEP File # 234-530 by Janet Bernardo, seconded by Paul Alpert, approved 4-0-0.**

OTHER BUSINESS

149 PINE STREET (NIKE SITE) – Discussion

K. Phelps stated that NSTAR had graded and loamed out the corner of 149 Pine Street adjacent to the Nike Site entrance as directed following the disturbance of this area by construction vehicles. The area was not seeded by NSTAR, and they have since completed the gas main work in this area. The Commission agreed that the Permanent Public Building Committee should be asked to seed, as the initial disturbance to this area was caused by the contractors working at Needham High School.

TRAILS DAY – Discussion

L. Standley explained that the Trails Committee is planning a kick-off event at Ridge Hill, tentatively scheduled for November 22, 2008, to publicize the Master Trails Plan and to initiate the process of getting volunteers involved in the many trails projects outlined in the Plan. The event will involve distribution of trail maps, guided trail walks, and refreshments. Most Commission members are available on November 22nd to participate in the event.

BUDGET – Discussion

K. Phelps stated that the initial budget submission for FY 2010 is due in the next few weeks. Input from the Commission is necessary to determine which projects to include as budget requests above and beyond the “level-service” budget submission. The Commission agreed to seek additional hours for the Conservation Officer and a recording secretary. In terms of items that must be included in the budget, but could possibly be funded out of CPA, the Commission discussed seeking funding for a part-time Trails Coordinator and for design money for an all-persons trail around the Needham Reservoir. Lastly, the Commission agreed to request a transfer of \$30,000 from the Community Preservation Fund to the Conservation Fund.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 30, 2008 at the Eliot School Media Center

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Phelps