

## **TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES**

### **Thursday, July 27, 2023**

*Under Governor Baker's Act "Extending Certain COVID-10 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency", extending the "Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, S20," issued June 16, 2021, and in effect until April 1, 2022, meeting of public bodies may be conducted virtually provided that adequate access is provided to the public.*

LOCATION: Zoom Virtual Platform – the meeting was held virtually per Governor Baker's Emergency Order.

ATTENDING: Dave Herer (Chair), Peter Oehlkers (Vice Chair), Sue Barber, Alison Richardson, Fred Moder, Polina Safran, Reade Everett, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist)

D. Herer opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **SOUTHFIELD COURT POND (DEP FILE #234-887) – DISCUSSION**

D. Anderson explained that Southfield Court Pond has been managing the algae in the Pond for a number of years. The permit has been extended a number of times. The Commission has previously requested more sustainable improvement methods to the Pond. The Commission requested that the Homeowner's Association members and their representative attend a Commission meeting to discuss and outline these methods.

Janet Baum, Southfield Court Pond, explained that the group sent letters to owners that there will be a stop to fertilizing the backyards of houses that border the pond. There is water coming from a pipe on South Street which drains into the pond, but the group does not have additional information on what enters the Pond through this drain. A water analysis was completed, and high nitrogen levels were seen. A filter at the end of the pipe was proposed but this has not yet been completed. The usual annual budget for the Pond is \$3,600. A quote for plantings was much higher than that budget. The Pond is completely green at this time. There has been quite a bit of erosion over the years.

D. Anderson explained that this area seems to want to be an intermittent wetland. The Commission discussed potential plantings along the shoreline to stabilize the area. The Commission requested that the HOA draft a plan for the Commission to review and approve.

### **HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS**

#### **0 CHARLES RIVER STREET WALKER POND – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY**

Melissa Recos, BETA Group Inc., explained that there is plant overgrowth and increased nutrients in the Pond. The current phase addresses water quality, with the intention to create a

five-year Pond Management Plan. The outlet control structure is also being worked on. An inlet pipe will also require a headwall. The RDA is to complete some sampling within the Pond to work on the Management Plan.

Tyler Drew, BETA Group Inc., stated that 24 borings to a depth of 12” each are being requested for sediment samples in the Pond. This will be done using a boat and hand tools. This should not impact the substrate of the Pond. Filter tubes for phosphorus removal are also proposed to be installed.

There was no public comment at this time.

***Motion to close the hearing for 0 Charles River Street by P. Safran, seconded by R. Everett, approved 7-0-0.***

***Motion to grant a negative Determination of Applicability for 0 Charles River Street by P. Safran, seconded by R. Everett, approved 7-0-0.***

### **311 DEDHAM AVENUE**

C. Hutchinson explained that the applicant has acquired another consultant to bring the site back into compliance. The applicant is before the Commission to discuss potential dewatering of the site. A series of haybales with a filter fabric are proposed to de-sediment during the dewatering process.

The Commission suggested that wattles be used instead of haybales. The Commission requested that the applicant submit a plan to Staff and continue to work through this item.

### **49 GREEN STREET (DEP FILE #234-911) – NOTICE OF INTENT**

Andrew Gorman, B+T, explained that this is an effort to restore a denuded stream corridor which has had some erosion issues at the Needham Golf Club. The applicant is hoping to complete some regrading activities along the bank and allow for a 2’ width along each side to be revegetated with a native conservation mix. This area is currently being managed as turf grass. There are invasives species on the northwest corner of the site that are also proposed to be managed. The applicant would also like to repair existing flash boards that control the flow of water along the stream and complete ongoing sediment removal in portions of the site. Portions of a retaining wall are proposed to be removed in order to regrade the area and revegetate it with a native mix. Some existing shade trees, in excess of 20, are proposed to be removed and replanted with deciduous trees. This will remain a canopy area, with the intention to thin out some of the shady areas.

D. Anderson noted that the Commission has a 2:1 replacement policy for trees removed. She stated that Staff would like to see details about the trees being removed. She also suggested adding shrubs along the bank in order to help with the erosion issues.

The Commission discussed thinning some of the existing trees instead of removing all of them.

A. Richardson expressed concern with only using a conservation mix. This may not help with the erosion along the banks.

There was no public comment at this time.

***Motion to continue the hearing for 49 Green Street (DEP FILE #234-911) to August 10, 2023, at 7pm by S. Barber, seconded by R. Everett, approved 7-0-0.***

### **103 WAYNE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-910) – NOTICE OF INTENT**

Tom Schutz, Goddard Consulting LLC, explained that the proposal is to raze an existing single-family home on the lot and rebuild a new home in a similar footprint. There is an intermittent stream that leads to a bordering vegetated wetland on the northern area of the site. The proposed house will include a porch, patio, walkway, and driveway. No trees are proposed to be removed to build the new house. A naturalized area within the 25' buffer zone is proposed. An infiltration system is proposed on the site. An existing chain-link fence is proposed to remain in order to separate the limit of the property outside of the lawn area.

There was discussion regarding making the patio permeable. The applicant agreed.

D. Herer asked about the infiltration system. It was noted that the system will be designed to handle all of the impervious areas proposed on the site.

C. Hutchinson explained that Staff recommends four conservation plaques affixed along the 25' buffer line.

There was no public comment at this time.

***Motion to close the hearing for 103 Wayne Road (DEP FILE #234-910) by S. Barber, seconded by R. Everett, approved 7-0-0.***

### **1616 GREAT PLAIN AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-900) – REQUEST FOR AMENDED ORDER OF CONDITIONS**

Diane Simonelli, Field Resources Inc., explained that the owner will no longer be moving to Needham and is now proposing to reduce the size of the structure by 1,540 s.f., and reduce the driveway by 237 s.f., thus reducing impervious areas on the site by over 1,700 s.f. The proposal also improves the distance from wetland by moving the structure back from the bordering vegetated wetland. The proposed grading has also been reduced. The infiltration system and plantings are proposed to be the same. The request is for an amended Order of Conditions. The larger footprint was originally proposed due to wheelchair access, but this is no longer needed.

There were no Commissioner comments at this time. There was no public comment at this time.

***Motion to close the hearing and issue an amended Order of Conditions for 1616 Great Plain Avenue (DEP FILE #234-900) by P. Safran, seconded by S. Barber, approved 7-0-0.***

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**12 IVY ROAD TREE REMOVAL - DISCUSSION**

D. Anderson stated that she met the homeowner on site to discuss the site conditions. The owners are doing some landscaping and may want to remove some trees from the site. The applicant explained that there are five Norway maples that are shading the site, including a solar panel on the roof. There are also some plantings within the 25' zone that have already been planted.

D. Herer stated that he believes a formal submittal for this project would be appropriate.

The applicant asked if the plantings already completed could count toward the mitigation amount. The Commission noted that this could be weighed during a formal application, provided that appropriate documentation is submitted. There are mitigating factors which may come into play.

**NEEDHAM HOUSING AUTHORITY LINDEN CHAMBERS REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT – DISCUSSION**

Reginald Foster, Needham Housing Authority, explained that on June 30<sup>th</sup> the conceptual design for this project was completed. There are a couple of design issues that are within the Commission's jurisdiction. The project is now in schematic design, which should be completed in September.

Dan Chen, BH+A, explained that the wetland delineation have been reflagged on the site. The existing conditions include 15,000+ s.f. of buildings within the 50' buffer zone and 1,136 s.f. of buildings within the 25' buffer zone. Two design options were reviewed, both of which lead to reductions in structure square footage within the buffer zones.

There was discussion on the Commission regarding viewing in more detail the work done close to the bank.

D. Herer noted that infiltration chambers under the parking lot are incompatible with permeable pavers. The applicant agreed and noted that solar panels may be included on the roof of the buildings.

R. Foster asked the Commission's thoughts about geothermal for the HVAC system for the buildings. D. Herer stated that he does not believe this type of item has been addressed by the Commission before.

R. Foster stated that the applicant will be back before the Commission in a few months once more details are known.

## **WATER CHESTNUT IN REDWING BAY - DISCUSSION**

It was noted that the applicant for this item was not available in the meeting.

### **103 WAYNE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-910) – ORDER OF CONDITIONS**

*Motion to waive the prohibition of work within the 25' No Disturbance Zone for 103 Wayne Road (DEP FILE #234-910) by S. Barber, seconded by P. Safran, approved 7-0-0.*

*Motion to waive the fee for work within the 25' No Disturbance Zone for 103 Wayne Road (DEP FILE #234-910) by S. Barber, seconded by P. Safran, approved 7-0-0.*

*Motion to issue an Order of Conditions as discussed for 103 Wayne Road (DEP FILE #234-910) by S. Barber, seconded by P. Safran, approved 7-0-0.*

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS – *These items were tabled to a future meeting.***

- 1. Minutes**
- 2. Enforcement & Violation Updates**

### **ADJOURN:**

*Motion to adjourn the meeting, by R. Everett, seconded by P. Safran, approved 7-0-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

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### **NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:**

*August 10, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.*

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristan Patenaude*