

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES Thursday, January 6, 2022

Under Governor Baker's emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, S20," issued March 12, 2020, and in effect until termination of the emergency, 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: Sue Barber, Peter Oehlkers (Vice Chair), Stephen Farr, Artie Crocker, William Murphy, Allison Richardson, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

P. Oehlkers opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS

631 SOUTH STREET (DEP FILE #234-872) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT

Motion to continue the hearing for 631 South Street (DEP File #234-872), to January 27, 2022, by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

649 SOUTH STREET (DEP FILE #234-874) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT

Motion to continue the hearing for 649 South Street (DEP File #234-874), to January 27, 2022, by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

UPDATES ON CPC OPEN SPACE GOALS – DISCUSSION

Peter Pingitore explained that the project is to amend the Community Preservation Plan for the Town. He is reaching out to all stakeholders associated with this project. The request is for each board/commission to review sections of the CPA Plan that deal with their constituent groups. He asked that the Commission review pages 12-13, and the Section regarding Open Space & Recreation. This data will help inform a financial plan for the Town.

P. Oehlkers stated that the Commission will work on this project and include any helpful information. He noted that the Commission has utilized CPC funds for projects in the past.

Jeanne McKnight noted that she helped work on the Open Space Plan and does not believe it was ever finalized. There is a Needham Trails Master Plan completed in 2008 with CPA funds and this could be referenced within the CPA Plan.

EVERSOURCE NEEDHAM RELIABILITY PROJECT (DEP FILE #234-799) – OOC EXTENSION REQUEST

Rhianna Sommers, Epsilon Associates, explained that this deals with the West Roxbury to Needham Reliability project. An Order of Conditions was received from the Commission in February 2018. The overhead portion of the project was completed a couple of years ago. The underground section in Needham took quite some time but was recently completed. The roadways have been restored and the laydown areas have been revegetated. An extension was requested from the original order last year which expires in February 2022. One more item is required for the project, to remove existing overhead lines from structures that were replaced with underground cables. Work should be completed within one year and the request is for another one-year extension.

Motion to grant a one-year extension for the Eversource Needham Reliability Project (DEP File #234-799), by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

1191 GREENDALE AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-749) – OOC EXTENSION REQUEST

Fred Keylor, H. W. Moore, explained that the Order of Conditions was for the Athletic Center project. A minor modification was requested due to changes proposed to the hockey rink, mostly internal to the building. However, one external item was to relocate the emergency restore toward the back part of the building. The request was granted but there was not funding available at the time to complete the project. The funding is now available to proceed in the spring and the request is for an extension.

C. Hutchinson stated that the three-year extension request may not be necessary and some of that request may also come from the minor modification request. The Commission asked the applicant to review the request for minor modification.

F. Keylor explained that a devotional space is proposed outside of the new Athletic Facility building within the 200' riverfront zone. This area will have a retaining wall and concrete pavement that will be pitched back to an existing drainage area. This proposes 275' of new impervious area for the site.

C. Hutchinson explained that the three-year extension request mentions completing the original work by this spring, but this additional work may push that extension further. Staff believes that the addition is minor but that three years may be longer than necessary. A one- or two-year extension may be more appropriate. F. Keylor stated that the applicant would try to complete all work within one year and, if unable to within that time period, would then request an additional extension.

Motion to grant a one-year extension for 1191 Greendale Avenue (DEP File #234-749), by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

1191 GREENDALE AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-749) – REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION

This item was discussed as part of the previous agenda item.

Motion to approve a minor modification for 1191 Greendale Avenue (DEP File #234-749), by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 6-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS –

1. Minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 28, 2021, by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-1, with P. Oehlkers abstaining.

2. Enforcement & Violation Updates

None at this time.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn, by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 6-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

January 27, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*