

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 11, 2024

Under Governor Baker's Act "Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency", extending the "Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20," issued June 16, 2021, and in effect until April 1, 2025, 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), Sue Barber, Reade Everett, Fred Moder, Alison Richardson, Polina Safran, Bill Hebard, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist)

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS –

1. Minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 28, 2024, as amended, by P. Safran, seconded by R. Everett, approved 7-0-0.

2. Enforcement Orders

D. Anderson stated that she met at 40 Lake with the wetlands scientist for the work that was done outside the footprint of the foundation. The after the fact Notice of Intent should be submitted to the Commission shortly.

D. Herer stated that he and Mr. Hebard visited 320 Grove Street, and everything seemed to be in order regarding the Order of Conditions. The drainage structure seems to be a factor in the amount of runoff. This appears to be an issue between landowners.

OTHER BUSINESS:

DPW GENERAL MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY NOTIFICATION (DEP FILE #234-630) – 470 DEDHAM AVENUE

It was explained that a culvert pipe on Dedham Avenue runs right to the DPW site. It is unclear why this currently exists. During heavy rains there has been a lot of overflow on the culverts. The proposal is to install precast concrete block wingwalls to prevent erosion and washout. There will also be riprap installed. The intention is not to remove much vegetation to complete the project.

D. Anderson explained that the DPW is allowed to complete repair and replacement of headwalls as needed.

P. Safran asked why the culvert wouldn't just be removed. It was explained that it would be a large project. There is not enough time or capability to do that work. This proposal should work for a long period of time.

190 EDGEWATER DRIVE (DEP FILE #234-853) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

D. Anderson stated that this applicant received a partial Certificate of Compliance. The final monitoring report shows that 90% of plantings have survived. She would recommend issuing a complete Certificate of Compliance at this time.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 190 Edgewater Drive (DEP File #234-853), by S. Barber, seconded by R. Everett, approved 7-0-0.

NEEDHAM RESERVOIR (DEP FILE #234-902) – SEDIMENT AMENDMENT DISCUSSION

Craig Ellis, BETA Group, explained that one of the activities during dredging includes drying out the sediment in a stockpile area. The moisture content must be brought down below a certain amount in that area. One way to do this is using a lime or Portland cement to the pile. The nearby wetlands will be checked for pH to make sure this does not spread past the pile. Part of the dewatering area is within the 25' buffer. No trees are proposed to be removed from the area, but any vegetation removed will be restored.

The Commission approved of the plan and thanked Mr. Ellis for this information.

REDWING BAY WATER CHESTNUT REMOVAL DISCUSSION

Lisa Kumpf, CRWA, explained that CRWA is a non-profit that tries to protect the Charles River. A volunteer invasive removal program has been run since 2012, including water chestnut removal. The group has been working with DCR regarding removing aquatic invasives through a five-year management plan. Water chestnut work in the Lakes District has grown over the years and there has been a lot of progress. The proposal is to host eight volunteer days from June 14-August 2, 2024.

The Commission approved of the plan and thanked the groups for this information.

53 HEATHER LANE (DEP FILE #234-919) – ORDER OF CONDITIONS DISCUSSION

It was noted that this would be discussed at a future meeting.

HEARINGS/APPOINTMENT

0 & 731 SOUTH STREET (DEP FILE #234-920) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

D. Anderson stated that there will be a presentation on this item at the Commission's next meeting.

Motion to continue the hearing for 0 & 731 South Street (DEP File #234-920) to April 25, 2024, by F. Moder, seconded by P. Safran, approved 7-0-0.

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

This item was not discussed at this time.

It was noted that there still seems to be interest regarding the Commission meeting in-person.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn the meeting, by F. Moder, seconded by P. Safran, approved 7-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

April 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*