

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 14, 2022

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, §20," 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: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Dave Herer, Stephen Farr, Sue Barber, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1191 GREENDALE AVE (DEP FILE #234-888) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Raif Boit, representing the applicant, explained that this project was to clear a short trail of invasive species and debris. One metal pillar was turned into a sign holder. The other was cut toward the bottom and is currently being covered by a tennis ball as the edges are sharp. There were approximately 15 different people that helped with the project, totaling 40-60 man hours.

D. Herer suggested a long-term solution for the metal pillar which is currently being covered by a tennis ball for safety concerns. D. Anderson suggested that the area could be spray painted to alert people of the presence of the sharp metal.

There was no public comment at this time.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 1191 Greendale Ave (DEP File #234-888), by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS

68 MACKINTOSH AVE (DEP FILE #234-889) – NOTICE OF INTENT

Diane Simonelli, Field Resources, explained that the owners currently have an existing garage, a patio, and a front entry. The proposal is to enlarge all of those areas slightly. This area is within the jurisdiction of a bordering vegetated wetland on the northeast side of the property. An existing fence and the shed delineate the No Disturb line which, unfortunately, is currently within the 25' buffer zone. This area is currently lawn, which ends at the fence line. The area

beyond the fence is currently being used for yard waste and this will be allowed to revegetate naturally. The proposed project will add less than 500 s.f. of impervious surface to the site. The project will move slightly closer to the vegetated wetlands and the shed is proposed to remain in place. The project does not trigger stormwater management, but an infiltration system is proposed on the backside of the house to capture any runoff and improve the site conditions. The existing garage will be torn down and made larger. The existing screened-in porch will be increased slightly in footprint. Erosion controls are proposed along the fence and in front of the shed. This will be a 12" straw wattle.

P. Oehlkers asked if the area beyond the fence line will be allowed to fill in with invasive species. D. Simonelli stated that invasive species in this area would be substantial, and plantings likely would not survive.

A. Richardson stated that it appears someone built a stonewall beyond the fence to contain the yard waste. D. Simonelli stated that this is part of the yard waste. A. Richardson expressed concern with leaving this as is. This area should never have been dumped in. D. Simonelli stated that there could be erosion in this area if items are removed. A. Richardson stated that the stones seem to have been placed to hold the fill and debris back from the fence. She would like to see more effort to restore this area.

S. Barber agreed that the dumping in this area should be rectified. D. Simonelli stated that the plan can be updated to include removal of debris and seeding with a wildflower mix. The straw wattle can also be extended as needed for this additional work.

Motion to close the hearing for 68 Mackintosh Ave (DEP File #234-889), with the conditions as noted, by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

106 FOREST ST (DEP FILE #234-823) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Jim DeVellis, DeVellis Zrein, Inc., stated that this was a project in 2018 for an inground swimming pool which was built in 2021 and finished in 2022. An operation and maintenance plan was submitted.

D. Anderson asked if there was a pergola proposed which was not constructed. J. DeVellis agreed that all of the above ground items originally proposed were not carried out. D. Anderson stated that the deviations from the original plan should be listed.

D. Anderson expressed concern regarding mulch on the property that leads right up to the stream. J. DeVellis stated that this was not carried out as part of the project in question. J. Carter Bernardo stated that mulch should not continue to be placed in this area, as it will run into the stream. A deer-resistant, ground cover could be considered.

There was no public comment at this time.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 106 Forest St (DEP File #234-823), by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

15 HEATHER LANE (NGWP #19) – REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION

Joyce Hastings, GLM Engineering, explained that this is a request for a minor modification to the project. The new owners have slightly changed the size of the house. The proposed house is now 69' from the edge of the wetland where previously the corner was 70' away. There will be approximately 50 s.f. less building in the 100' buffer zone. A pervious paver patio is proposed at the back of the house to define the area. The planting plan has also been modified. There are 15 arborvitaes proposed in one area and 15 in another area outside the 100' buffer zone.

J. Carter Bernardo exited the meeting.

J. Hastings stated that a revised plan showing the original tree planting plan, incorporating the arborvitaes will be submitted. Details on the pavers proposed will also be submitted to the office.

Motion to approve the Minor Modification for 15 Heather Lane (NGWP #19), by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions for 68 Mackintosh Ave (DEP File #234-889).

Motion to issue a waiver for work within the 25' buffer zone for 68 Mackintosh Ave (DEP File #234-889), by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to waive the waiver fee for work within the 25' buffer zone for 68 Mackintosh Ave (DEP File #234-889), by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for 68 Mackintosh Ave (DEP File #234-889), as amended, by S. Farr, seconded by D. Herer, approved 5-0-0.

1. Minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of August 26, 2021, as amended, by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

2. Enforcement & Violation Updates

None at this time.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn the meeting, by S. Farr, seconded by D. Herer, approved 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

July 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*