

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 8, 2025

Under Governor Healey'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 March 2023, 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), Reade Everett, Sue Barber, Clary Coutu, Bill Hebard, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation)

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

1. Minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 28, 2022, and June 12, 2022, as amended, by C. Coutu, seconded by B. Hebard, approved 5-0-0.

2. Enforcement Orders

None at this time.

HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS:

11 GLOVER ROAD (DEP FILE #234-946) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

Motion to close the hearing for 11 Glover Road (DEP File #234-946), by B. Hebard, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

72 VALLEY ROAD (DEP FILE #234-950) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

Motion to close the hearing for 72 Valley Road (DEP File #234-950), by S. Barber, seconded by B. Hebard, approved 5-0-0.

106 WINDSOR ROAD – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

D. Anderson stated that the proposed project is to demolish the existing structure. The applicant will have to come back before the Commission to propose the new house. A portion of the demolition is located in the Commission's jurisdiction and the plan shows erosion controls.

S. Barber stated that she believes this project should come back as a Notice of Intent. D. Anderson noted that there is only a small portion of the existing structure within the Commission's jurisdiction and the only proposal at this time is to demolish the structure. A more detailed plan for the site will be submitted in the future, which may be subject to a Notice of Intent.

David Murray, representing the applicant, stated that the only plan at this time is to demolish the structure. The landscape architect was only recently brought on board. D. Herer stated that the Commission would like to know what will happen to the portion of land within the buffer zone prior to issuing a determination.

C. Coutu suggested a condition that the Commission be notified as to what will occur in that space. D. Murray stated that the plan shows this area as native plantings and lawn.

Michael Gillespie, abutter, stated that the controls used to prevent runoff for other nearby demolition projects have been inadequate.

Motion to close the hearing for 106 Windsor Road, by C. Coutu, seconded by R. Everett, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 106 Windsor Road, with the condition that the area within the buffer will be revegetated with native plants, by C. Coutu, seconded by R. Everett, approved 4-1-0 with S. Barber opposed.

84 KENDRICK STREET (CUTLER PARK) – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

Alexandra Echandi, trail planner for DCR, stated that the proposal is to replace the decking and some of the stringers associated with the existing boardwalks at Cutler Park. There are two boardwalks associated with this project, one is approximately ½ mile and the other is approximately ¼ mile. The decking is starting to pop off, likely because the stringers are rotted. This boardwalk was permitted by the Conservation Commission in the 1990s and minor replacements have been made over the years. A major stringer and decking replacement project is needed to continue to provide a safe passageway across the boardwalks. The boardwalks are located within the 100 year floodplain as well as a BVW however the proposed work should not impact the resource area, as the majority of the work will be done on top of the boardwalk. The work is proposed to be completed by a student conservation association group. No debris will be left within the wetland resource areas. There is a habitat management plan which applies to all DCR trails and Natural Heritage has determined that this proposed work is inclusive of that plan.

There was no public comment at this time.

Motion to close the hearing for 84 Kendrick Street (Cutler Park), by R. Everett, seconded by C. Coutu, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 84 Kendrick Street (Cutler Park), by R. Everett, seconded by C. Coutu, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to waive the filing fee for 84 Kendrick Street (Cutler Park), by B. Hebard, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Commission discussed the draft Order of Conditions for 11 Glover Road.

Motion to waive the restriction of work within the non-disturb zone and the wetland area for 11 Glover Road (DEP File #234-946), by S. Barber, seconded by B. Hebard, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to waive the fee for work within the non-disturb zone for 11 Glover Road (DEP File #234-946), by B. Hebard, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions, as discussed, for 11 Glover Road (DEP File #234-946), by C. Coutu, seconded by B. Hebard, approved 5-0-0.

The Commission discussed the draft Order of Conditions for 72 Valley Road.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions, as discussed, for 72 Valley Road (DEP File #234-950), by C. Coutu, seconded by B. Hebard, approved 5-0-0.

D. Herer noted that on Monday, at Town Meeting, the CPA trails project was unanimously approved. There was a call with prospective volunteers last week.

D. Anderson stated that of the seven Commissioner votes, four wanted meetings to remain remote for now, two wanted to go hybrid, and one voted that either way would be fine.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn the meeting, by R. Everett, seconded by C. Coutu, approved 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

May 22, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*