

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 6, 2012**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Lisa Standley (Chair), Paul Alpert, Janet Carter Bernardo, Stephen Farr, Sharon Soltzberg, Debbie Anderson (Acting Agent), Marita Klements (Acting Assistant)

GUESTS: Irene Belibasakis, Hank Hall, Michael Lenahan, William Lenahan, Diane Simonelli.

L. Standley opened the public meeting at 7:37 pm.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2012 as amended by Janet Carter Bernardo, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 5-0-0.

ENFORCEMENTS

5 BANCROFT STREET – TREE REMOVAL

The Conservation Department received a complaint of tree removal near the wetland at 5 Bancroft Street, as a result, D. Anderson conducted a site visit and noted that several small trees were removed along the sidewalk outside of the 100 foot buffer zone and one larger dbh tree was cut adjacent to the house within the 100 foot buffer zone. The tree removal was noted prior to Hurricane Sandy. D. Anderson explained that the property was a Habitat for Humanity project and there is a conservation restriction on the property. The Commission authorized the agent to send a wetland violation letter to the property owner requesting that they attend the next meeting, and enclose a copy of the tree policy.

HEARINGS

1516 CENTRAL AVENUE (DEP FILE # 264-654) – Continued NOTICE OF INTENT

The Applicant's Representative, William Lenahan, explained that the waiver request has been amended to give more information regarding the proposed work and to address the Riverfront Area performance standards. He explained that they submitted a revised plan which depicts installation of a French drain rather than an infiltration chamber, as the Commission had suggested. Encroachment onto the public way has been eliminated by removing a portion of the trench drain. Due to the fact that the driveway will now be heated, there will be no need to treat it with salt when there is ice and snow, and there will be no salt run-off into the resource areas. The location of the utility trench has changed slightly. He noted that all of the proposed work is within previously disturbed areas.

In response to a question from J. Bernardo, M. Lenahan clarified that the only work that needs to be completed is to finish the driveway and stormwater treatment and to trench in the utility line, which is required to heat the driveway, and that the gravel that will be used in the utility trench is 3/4 inch crushed stone.

Mr. W. Lenahan asked if the Commission would allow the Applicant to apply an abrasive material to the granite drive surface and complete the trenching and utility installation so that the driveway could be heated. Mr. M. Lenahan requested approval to begin this work now to avoid freezing conditions that can

damage the granite slabs. L. Standley stated that the Commission cannot authorize work until an Order of Conditions is issued and recorded but the Commission would allow the application of the abrasive as a safety measure. Upon consideration the Commission took the position that, were the Applicant to begin work on the trench within the confines of the driveway before the Order of Conditions is final the Commission would choose not to take enforcement action. **Motion to close the public hearing for 1516 Central Avenue (DEP FILE #234-654) by S. Soltzberg, seconded by J. C. Bernardo, approved 5-0-0. The public hearing was closed at 8:15 pm.**

92 SUTTON ROAD (DEP FILE #234-653) – Continued NOTICE OF INTENT

Diane Simonelli, from Field Resources, presented a revised plan (for the correct date) to the Commission. She reiterated that the applicants propose to put an addition on their home which abuts Alder Brook, and which consists of a garage, deck, and patio. The homeowners have proposed to put a fence and plantings into the 25-foot buffer zone in order to discourage children from getting into the brook. The types of plants have not, as yet, been identified. They propose 24 shrubs installed along the brook, and four trees located on each side of the property along the proposed fencing. L. Standley asked that the hay bales be moved up above the 25-foot buffer. Janet Carter Bernardo asked that test pits be dug in order to determine the depth of the water table to ensure that the run off system has adequate separation, and discussed how runoff would be handled if the separation requirement was not met.

Motion to close the public hearing for 92 Sutton Road (DEP FILE #234-653) by J. C. Bernardo, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 5-0-0. The public hearing was closed at 8:25 pm. Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for 92 Sutton Road (DEP FILE #234-653) by Janet Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 5-0-0. Motion to waive the waiver fee for 92 Sutton Road (DEP FILE #234-653) by Janet Carter Bernardo, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

92 WILSHIRE PARK (DEP FILE #234-629) – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST

D. Anderson conducted a site visit and reported that the slope was stabilized with grass and lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*).

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 92 Wilshire Park by J. C. Bernardo, seconded by P. Alpert approved 5-0-0.

200 HARRIS AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-605) – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST

Hank Haff from the Town of Needham Public Facilities Department explained the changes to the project that were previously approved through a minor modification. D. Anderson conducted a site visit and reported that site is stabilized.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance by Janet Carter Bernardo, seconded by P. Alpert approved 5-0-0.

RIDGE HILL

L. Standley reported that the new trail signs had mostly been installed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

NEXT PUBLIC HEARING

December 20, 2012, 7:30 PM in the Needham Public Library - Community Room