

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 28, 2016**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building (PSAB), Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (arrived at 7:40 pm.), Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, Alison Richardson, Sharon Soltzberg, Matthew Varrell (Director of Conservation), Debbie Anderson (Conservation Specialist)

GUESTS: Kyle Fair, Richard Rosenlev, Pam Shaw, Mary Trudeau

Artie Crocker opened the public meeting at 7:35 pm.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2016 by S. Farr, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-0.

ENFORCEMENT & VIOLATION UPDATES

SUNNYSIDE ROAD

D. Anderson explained that an area homeowner had reported that certain residents on Sunnyside Road (or their landscapers) had been dumping landscaping debris and, recently, cement blocks over the edge of a steep drop-off located to the rear of their properties. The reporting homeowner is familiar with the wetland resources located at the base of the drop-off. D. Anderson consulted various GIS maps and determined the areas of dumping are within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to the wetland resources. The homeowner provided the Conservation Department staff with additional documentation validating his concerns.

M. Varrell and D. Anderson conducted a site visit to the residents in question residing on Sunnyside Road on April 28, 2016. No one appeared to be home at one of the houses. Conservation staff left a copy of a previous "No Dumping" memo that had been sent to the same Sunnyside Road residents back in the fall when dumping was first reported. In addition, a request was left for the homeowner to contact the Conservation Department to discuss the issue. At the neighboring home, we spoke with an elderly gentleman who stated that his daughter maintains the yard; we left materials and contact information with him as well. M. Varrell and/or D. Anderson will follow-up.

HEARINGS

KEOLIS COMMUTER SERVICE - *continued* REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public hearing at 8:10 pm.

Kyle Fair represented Keolis and described the proposed project. K. Fair stated that the current right-of-way management regulations protect sensitive areas such as vernal pools. Any of these

right-of-way “zones” that they pass through are not all necessarily delineated in the field due to the size of these projects. Wetland resources located within 100-feet of the right-of-way are protected. The pattern of herbicide application used to keep the right-of-way clear extends to 10-feet on either side.

The bridge at the Town line with Dedham is the only area in Needham where the 10-foot setback is located within a jurisdictional area (bridge is directly over water). No spraying will take place within 10-feet of the water. The spraying will take place once per year and an Environmental Scientist rides on the truck as they spray to ensure compliance.

M. Varrell stated that this Request for Determination of Applicability filing is strictly asking for approval of the wetland delineation. There is an entire vegetation management plan that he had emailed to the Commission for their information. M. Varrell explained that there are two areas of wetlands not shown on their map. K. Fair stated that he will send an updated map including the MassDEP Wetlands layer and the Needham GIS Wetlands layer.

Motion to close the public hearing for Keolis Commuter Service by S. Farr, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for Keolis Commuter Service by S. Farr, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-0 (NDA to be held until updated map is received).

OTHER BUSINESS

REQUEST FOR A MINOR MODIFICATION – LOT 3 WOODWORTH ROAD (DEP FILE #234-490)

The Applicant, Pam Shaw, and her Representative Mary Trudeau were present. The Request for Minor Modification is for the removal of additional trees. M. Trudeau explained that they had come before the Commission several years ago to permit the property and they are just now beginning the building phase. This is the last building lot of several single-family homes that were constructed in this subdivision. D. Anderson had met the owner and M. Trudeau on the property for a pre-construction meeting including an erosion/sediment control inspection. There was a discussion on-site regarding proposed tree removal.

The proposed tree removal includes trees located in the footprint of the proposed house or outside of jurisdiction. At the site visit, D. Anderson had questioned whether the applicant had proposed to replace an additional three (3) trees marked for removal with six (6) replacement trees. M. Trudeau explained that one of the additional trees to be removed is a large white pine located on the limit of work line that had been damaged by another tree falling on it several years ago. A small white oak tree is located just outside the limit of the proposed infiltration system and more than half the roots of the tree would be removed during its installation. A large white oak tree is located along the property line just inside the limit of work line. The Applicant would like to remove this tree as well. The Applicant is proposing six (6) replacement trees be planted within the 25-50 foot Buffer Zone within existing lawn area. The monitoring of the additional trees will be added into the existing Permit. An arborist had examined the trees and the Applicant will submit a copy of their report.

Motion to approve the Minor Modification of the plans, for the removal of three (3) additional trees and replacement with six (6) native trees in the 25-50 foot Buffer Zone, for Lot 3 Woodworth Road (DEP File #234-490) by S. Farr, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 5-0-0.

FULLER TRAIL FINAL INVOICE APPROVAL (AS-BUILT)

M. Varrell reminded the Commission that the Town had received the final invoice for the Fuller Trail project. Several of the Commission members were able to walk the completed trail since the last meeting. The supervising Structural Engineer found the boardwalk was constructed in compliance with the regulations and provided a certificate stating such. M. Varrell noted that the Order of Conditions for the project required an As-Built Plan as required with most projects. M. Varrell asked the Commission if they felt strongly that a Plan needed to be submitted to close out the project. The Commission determined that photographs of the work would suffice.

Motion to release the funds for the final payment to Solid Earth Technologies by S. Farr, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 5-0-0.

54 PERRY DRIVE – INFORMAL DISCUSSION

The owner of 54 Perry Drive, Richard Rosenlev, had requested an informal discussion with the Commission regarding a potential project on his property. He explained that he would like to do some renovations to the house. The entire property is jurisdictional. D. Anderson had visited the site and explained there is an intermittent stream and associated Bordering Vegetated Wetlands.

Mr. Rosenlev explained that under existing conditions, there is a garage under the existing house. The owner would potentially like to install a 4-foot “bump out” and deck over the existing driveway. Sonotubes would need to be installed for these second floor improvements. A separate garage would potentially be located partially in the 25-foot Buffer Zone. Alternative locations for the potential garage were discussed. J. Carter Bernardo stated the Commission would not permit a new structure within the 25-foot Buffer Zone.

REQUEST FOR USE OF RIDGE HILL RESERVATION

M. Varrell stated that he received a request from Peter Fletcher, a well-known Soil Scientist. He is teaching a geology class called Advanced Training for Soil Evaluators, and would like permission to bring 18 students to Ridge Hill Reservation to walk around and examine the geology of the area on June 16th. The Commission had no issues with the use of Ridge Hill for the class.

DISCUSSION - MEETING WITH STUDENTS FROM NEEDHAM HIGH SCHOOL - THE GREATER BOSTON CLASS

M. Varrell reported that he met with four students from Needham High School who are enrolled in a course titled “The Greater Boston Class”. They met with Matt to discuss a potential project to re-furbish the existing “Fitness Trail” at Ridge Hill Reservation. They plan to conduct a study of the potential usage and the students the next year may request to implement a design based on this year’s student’s findings. They hope to attend a Conservation Commission meeting to present their findings in the near future.

CELEBRATION AT THE LIBRARY

M. Varrell announced that there will be a celebration at the library to acknowledge the library's 100th anniversary on April 30th, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.