

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 30, 2017**

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

ATTENDING: Sue Barber, Janet Carter Bernardo, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Chris Hayward (Director of Conservation), Debbie Anderson (Conservation Specialist), Kathryn Copley (minutes)

ABSENT: Bill Murphy

GUESTS: Karen Skinner Catrone, Dan Levine, Bryan Piccariello, Bruce Ricciardelli, Steve Tolley

P. Oehlkers (vice-chair) opened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes from the October 26, 2017 and November 9, 2017 meetings will be tabled until the December 14th meeting.

ENFORCEMENT AND VIOLATION UPDATES:

HEARING:

147 OXBOW ROAD – *Continued* NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-797)

J. Bernardo opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

The applicant would like to install an in-ground pool, a pool house, a seasonal float/dock in the Charles River and enlarge the patio. There has been no new information and they have asked to continue the hearing. Detailed information on the plans had been requested at the last meeting.

Motion to continue hearing to the meeting on December 14, 2017 at 7:45 pm for 147 Oxbow Road (147 Oxbow Road DEP FILE #234-797) by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

44 ELDER ROAD - NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-7XX)

J. Bernardo opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m. A DEP file number has not been assigned.

Karen Skinner Catrone represented the applicant, Bruce Ricciardelli, for the construction of a single family home. The previous house was demolished and the submittal of the Notice of Intent is to construct a single family house. The lot is 12,000 square feet. The riverfront area was flagged on March 30, 2017. The lot is flat and slopes down to wetlands at the back. Erosion controls have been installed due to the Negative Determination of Applicability which was issued for the demolition of the existing house in October. The proposed house is not much larger than the one demolished. There will be no work in the backyard.

The 100-foot buffer zone and the riparian line are very close on the plans. The 100-foot buffer zone is closer to the house. The Commission asked that the plans identify the two lines more clearly and the limit of lawn. The dimension of the compost sock needs to be included on the detail as well.

The plans show infiltration and the erosion controls are on site. The proposed house is a few feet larger than the previous house. Four hundred and one-square feet of the proposed house is within the 100-foot buffer zone and one-square foot is in the riparian zone. The previous house had 160-square feet within the 100-foot riparian zone. The current lawn ends approximately 25 feet from the wetland zone. No work is being proposed beyond the lawn.

The existing shed will temporarily remain to store equipment, tools and supplies. The applicant anticipates removal of the shed at the time of landscaping. The shed removal can be a condition in the Order of Conditions.

The Commission and the applicant discussed the soil substrate and whether the stormwater would infiltrate. The contractor felt confident that it would infiltrate.

D. Anderson is satisfied with the delineation of the wetlands and bank. She reviewed it when they requested the RDA on the demolition work. The applicant must submit updated plans by December 7th.

Motion to continue the public hearing to December 14, 2017 at 8:00 p.m. for 44 Elder Road (DEP FILE #234-7XX) by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

1795 GREAT PLAIN AVENUE (BABSON COLLEGE on Olin Way) – REQUEST FOR APPLICABILITY

J. Bernardo opened the public hearing at 8:15 p.m.

Steve Tolley from Babson College Facilities explained that the Athletic Department would like to install on the rugby field a storage shed for the rugby team equipment. The shed is 12' x 20', (220 square feet), and will be set up on blocks. There will be no soil disturbance. No chemicals will be stored in the shed. Only the Athletic Department will have access to the shed.

The placement of the shed near the wetlands was chosen because the rugby games and benches are on that side of the field.

Motion to close the public hearing for 1795 Great Plain Avenue/Babson College by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to issue the Negative Determination of Applicability for 1795 Great Plain Avenue by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NEW DIRECTOR OF CONSERVATION

The new Director of Conservation, Chris Hayward, attended the meeting and spoke about his experience. He was previously in Watertown as Tree Warden, Conservation Agent and Historic Preservation Agent. He was on the Stormwater Advisory Committee and is a certified arborist. He worked for Camp Dresser McKee as a wetland scientist.

2018 MEETING SCHEDULE

The proposed meeting schedule for the first half of 2018 was handed out at the last meeting. The Commission has no major conflicts.

Motion to approve the proposed 2018 meeting schedule for the Conservation Commission, by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

RATIFY ENFORCEMENT - 250 STRATFORD ROAD

At the last meeting the Conservation Commission approved to issue an Enforcement Order. D. Anderson has signed the Enforcement Order and the Commission will sign it tonight. The homeowner has been asked to check in next week with their progress on getting a surveyor to the site.

The Order includes replacing trees, re-delineating the wetlands, placing four permanent markers at the 25-foot buffer zone, submitting a restoration planting plan, and checking in with the Commission in a month for a status update.

D. Anderson had drafted and sent the Enforcement Order to the owners for 250 Stratford Road with her signature. The Commission needed to sign the Enforcement Order for the Conservation Department's records.

ISSUE ORDER OF CONDITIONS - 0 ROSEMARY STREET (DEP FILE #234-793)

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions. BETA Group will provide calculations still outstanding. Matt Varrell will prepare Exhibit A for the Order of Conditions.

Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for 0 Rosemary Street (DEP File #234-793) by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

J. Bernardo spoke about the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The Selectmen and the OSRP Advisory Group have come up with many ideas. The goal is to now narrow down the ideas to ones that have the most likelihood of being achieved over the next five years. They are requesting that the Commission come up with the Conservation Commission's guiding principles/mission statement.

The Conservation Commission, the Board of Selectmen and the Park & Recreation Commission are all responsible parties. They will narrow down the ideas to a high priority list, a medium priority list and a future list.

For example, the Commission could use resources in staff, C. Hayward and D. Anderson, to identify possible land to acquire or apply for educational grants. There is an existing list of parcels that the Town would like to acquire if the opportunity presents itself.

The Commission was asked to think about what the top four or five concerns should be. Concerns and ideas for the statement could include:

- 1) The Commission is the protector of natural resources and wildlife habitat
- 2) Promoting education
- 3) Acquiring open space with CPC funds
- 4) Improving the land already owned by the Town, improving trails
- 5) Connecting the existing trails, land already owned with acquiring adjacent land
- 6) Planting trees, certifying vernal pools
- 7) Including a notice on the website regarding land donations to the Town for conservation purposes

The goal is to develop a plan to work toward over the next five years.

P. Oehklers will look into what other towns' Conservation Commissions are stating as their missions.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

December 14, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.