

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 22, 2018**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (arrived at 7:40 pm.), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, Bill Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Chris Hayward (Director of Conservation), Debbie Anderson (Conservation Specialist)

GUESTS: Tal Achituv, Patty Carey, Peter Hauschka, John Kelly, Michael Taytslin

Peter Oehlkers opened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.

HEARINGS:

224 COUNTRY WAY - NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-8XX)

Janet Carter Bernardo opened the public hearing at 7:50 p.m. J. Carter Bernardo stated that DEP had not issued a filing number yet.

D. Anderson explained that the Commission had requested the Applicant submit several additional items to complete their application and update their plan. These items were to be submitted by the March 15th, 2018 additional information submittal deadline for review by the Commission prior to tonight's Hearing. D. Anderson stated that no additional information had been provided. J. Carter Bernardo asked if the Applicant or his Representatives had formally requested that the Hearing be continued to the next meeting scheduled for April 12, 2018. D. Anderson confirmed that she had no contact with anyone connected to the filing.

As the Applicant did not submit the required additional information or request a continuance of the Hearing, the Commission determined the best course of action is to continue the Hearing to a date uncertain and require that the Applicant re-notify the Abutters.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 224 Country Way (DEP FILE #234-8XX) to a date uncertain, requiring re-notification to Abutters, by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE – 731 SOUTH STREET (DEP FILE #234-689)

D. Anderson explained that the proposed project was for the construction of a paved driveway with grading and installation of gas and water lines to service a proposed single-family house and garage to be located outside of jurisdiction.

D. Anderson stated that the proposed project never took place and the Permit has expired. She recommended issuance of a Certificate of Compliance stating the same.

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Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 731 South Street (DEP File #234-689) by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, 6-0-0.

WALKER POND LAKE MANAGEMENT REPORT – REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

J. Carter Bernardo stated that on March 12th, 2018, she and Chris Hayward had met with the Town Engineer, Town Manager, Tree Warden, DPW staff, Park and Recreation staff and Water and Sewer staff to review the results of the Walker Pond Study prepared by ESS, Inc. They discussed the recommendations that were presented in the report.

Several abutters to Walker Pond and members of the Walker Pond Neighborhood Association were present at the Conservation Commission Meeting and were part of the discussion. J. Carter Bernardo summarized the steps that were agreed to at the Town Department discussion. The first step is to have the Conservation Director, Chris Hayward, draft an educational brochure to be distributed to homeowners in the entire watershed that drains to Walker Pond describing ways they can help improve the health of Walker Pond.

J. Carter Bernardo then discussed the next step which would utilize her stormwater background to find locations within the watershed to construct rain gardens either in town right-of-ways, town property or perhaps on private property where owners are willing. The report states that the phosphorus numbers are only slightly high but high enough to be causing the overgrowth of algae in the pond. The Commission and the Abutters discussed several potential areas where rain gardens or other treatment solutions may be located. The potential role that the maintenance of sports fields within the watershed was discussed and determined not to play a factor. There was discussion about a potentially blocked drain entering the pond.

J. Carter Bernardo gave a brief description of MS4. The abutters discussed their desire to have town sewer extended to their neighborhood. J. Carter Bernardo stated that there had been some discussion at the meeting regarding the potential long-term solutions but they were concentrating at the moment on shorter term solutions that can be worked on now. J. Carter Bernardo requested that the neighborhood members provide their email addresses so they can receive information regarding timing of walks with J. Bernardo and the Town Engineer to look for potential rain garden locations in the watershed and other information the town may have to share with them during this project. There is a Neighborhood Association email that will be provided.

A. Richardson described a project she had worked on in Rhode Island and described how the cattails and other native plants pulled the phosphorus out of this particular water body and how it cleared up the water. There was a discussion of the potential use of experimental sensors within the pond to track various health parameters. A member of the Walker Pond Neighborhood Association has been involved with the design of the sensors and offered his assistance in this area.

DEER TICK WORKSHOP

C. Hayward stated that the Conservation Commission in partnership with the Needham Health Department and Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Needham sponsored “Tick Talk” presented by Larry Dapsis, Entomologist with the Cape Cod Cooperative Extension has been scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at The Center at the Heights. The workshop will be advertised in both the local Town newspapers. A. Crocker asked about coverage on social media for the event. The Needham Parks

and Recreation Director, Patty Carey, was in the audience and offered her Department's assistance with getting the word out on social media. C. Hayward added that the workshop information has been posted on the Town Website. A link to the page will be added. The Needham Facebook page can be utilized as well.

C. Hayward mentioned that various townspeople have suggested other potential education topics they would like to attend workshops/talks about. D. Anderson showed the Commission some brochures regarding rain gardens that she got from Wellesley that would be a good tool to give residents to gain interest in rain gardens.

STORMWATER BYLAW UPDATE

J. Carter Bernardo updated the Commission on the new Stormwater Bylaw the Town has been working on towards compliance with the MS4 Permit by the July 1, 2018 deadline.

J. Carter Bernardo explained that the biggest issue with stormwater that enters the Charles River is the overabundance of phosphorus from various sources that enters the river through untreated stormwater. Infiltration will make the biggest difference in lessening the amount of phosphorus entering the stream.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

April 12, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.