

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 8, 2018**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chairperson), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, Bill Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Debbie Anderson (Conservation Specialist), Christopher Hayward (Director of Conservation)

GUESTS: Brad Ali, Lori Ali, Reg Foster, Brandon Lee, Wes Worth

Janet Carter Bernardo (chair) opened the public meeting at 7:40 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of January 25, 2018 by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

ENFORCEMENT AND VIOLATION UPDATES:

250 STRATFORD ROAD

D. Anderson stated that she had updated the Commission on this enforcement at the previous meeting. She had stated that the owner's contractor and real estate agent stopped in the Conservation Department office within the past few days and spoke with Elisa Litchman, the Department Administrative Assistant regarding the violation. E. Litchman was able to provide them with the original Enforcement Order that was returned un-opened in the mail. She had explained the steps that were required to clear up the Enforcement issue. They stated that they would convey the information to the property owner and would be in touch shortly.

D. Anderson reported that she had driven by the property in the last few days and noticed survey stakes at the property lines so it appears they have a surveyor on board. C. Hayward added that the owners have a good amount of work to do to get in compliance with the Building Department as well.

HEARINGS:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION - 60 WILDWOOD DRIVE (DEP FILE #234-763)

The owners of 60 Wildwood Drive, Brad and Lori Ali, were present. Mr. Ali explained that they filed a Notice of Intent in 2017 for a small addition to their single-family home and obtained an Order of Conditions for the work. They would now like to install an irrigation point well. This type of well reaches approximately 40-feet below the surface. He stated that D. Anderson has been on site and has seen the proposed location for the well.

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D. Anderson added that when the Applicant had filed originally in 2017, a portion of the property was designated as Priority and Estimated Habitat under Natural Heritage. Since then, a new Map has come out and the property no longer has this designation. The existing erosion control line will be relocated for the well project. No grades will be changed in the Floodplain. No heavy machinery will be required. Testing has already taken place.

Motion to accept the Minor Modification to the plans for 60 Wildwood Drive (DEP File #234-763) by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION - 898 SOUTH STREET (DEP FILE #234-785)

The property owner, Reg Foster, and the Landscape Architect, Wes Worth, were present. Wes Worth presented the project. He reviewed the approved landscape/pool project. He explained that the original plan called for construction of a set of stairs with storage chambers beneath and the stairs coming down from the terrace level that the pool will be located on. They have since found that the stairs as proposed will not allow enough headroom to access the storage chambers. To remedy this issue, they have re-configured the stairway and taken the curve out of the retaining wall to allow more headroom. In addition, a Hemlock Tree they were hoping to save was failing so they decided to remove it.

C. Hayward had walked the site with the owner the previous day and noticed an area of potential erosion. The contractor took care of the issue right away. In addition invasive oriental bittersweet was being removed.

Motion to accept the Minor Modification to the plans for 898 SOUTH STREET (DEP File #234-785) by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE - 0 CHARLES RIVER STREET (BELLE LANE) (NGWP #12)

Brandon Lee of Kelly Engineering represented the Applicant. C. Hayward clarified that the project was only regulated under the Town Bylaw, not the Wetlands Protection Act Regulations as the isolated wetland is deemed a vernal pool. A Conservation Restriction has been granted in the area that contains the vernal pool. The Commission had requested that the Restriction be surveyed and shown on the site plan. C. Hayward contacted Mr. Lee regarding this oversight and Mr. Lee did go out and survey the area of the Conservation Restriction and draft it onto the plan. C. Hayward explained that during a site visit, the previous day, he noted some trash and debris within the vernal pool depression. Mr. Lee will inform the owner via email and copy C. Hayward. C. Hayward will be informed when the clean-up is complete. J. Rockwood sent a memo stating that more than 75% of the plantings have survived.

Various easements in the subdivision were discussed, including potential access to the Charles River at the end of the subdivision. Brandon Lee stated that there is a pedestrian access easement leading to a boat landing in the river.

Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 0 CHARLES RIVER STREET (BELLE LANE) (NGWP #12) by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

DEER TICK PRESENTATION

C. Hayward stated that the deer tick presentation for the public is scheduled for Monday, April 23, 2018 at the Needham Library at 7:00 p.m. The Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital, the Health Department and the Conservation Commission will help promote the talk and pay the fee for the presentation.

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WALKER POND STUDY UPDATE

J. Carter Bernardo stated that the Walker Pond Study has been completed. The Community Preservation Committee supplied the funds for the study. The ESS Group conducted the study. The Town Manager, J. Carter Bernardo, and several other department personnel are planning to meet to discuss the findings and recommendations noted in the study. The neighbors are very active and looking to help improve the health of the pond. C. Hayward forwarded the study to the neighborhood group. S. Farr suggested the report be put on the Town website.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

March 22, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.