

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, March 14, 2019**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, William Murphy, Alison Richardson, Debbie Anderson (Director of Conservation).

GUESTS: Lev Agranovich, Paul Beaulieu, Elena Kladova, Jorge Oslan.

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES: There were no minutes to review.

HEARINGS:

80 PLEASANT STREET (DEP FILE #234-828) –NOTICE OF INTENT

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public hearing at 7:45pm. The Applicant has asked to continue the hearing to the next meeting date.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 80 Pleasant Street (DEP File #234-828) to March 28, 2019 at 8:15pm by A. Crocker, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 5-0-0.

27 HAMILTON PLACE (DEP FILE #234-829) – NOTICE OF INTENT

J. Bernardo opened the public hearing at 8:02pm.

Paul Beaulieu from Field Resources presented. The complicated aspect of this project is that Field Resources wasn't involved before the owners began work. Utilities were being brought in by the owners, and a retaining wall was partially taken down to allow for the utilities' installation. Field Resources staff went to the property, saw what was taking place and recommended that they stop work, install erosion controls and submit an application for a permit from Conservation.

The owners hope to reconstruct where necessary and repair where possible the retaining wall. The wall will be reasonably modest maybe 3' tall. Based on the new Town of Needham Stormwater Bylaw the amount of water required to be captured is minimal so that they have proposed one cultec. J. Carter Bernardo stated that a project with no more than 1500 square feet of additional impervious area does not require more infiltration. Soil tests have not been done yet. The new Bylaw does not include a soil test requirement. The Order of Conditions can be conditioned upon soil tests being completed and the data submitted to Conservation. If any changes are required due to the results of the soil tests that new edited information needs to be

March 14, 2019

submitted and approved by the Commission. P. Beaulieu explained that the cultecs are pretty shallow and don't require much clearance to groundwater and that is why these units are proposed.

Elena Kladova, the owner, stated that the retaining rock wall was fine but they ordered gas and the gas company broke through the retaining wall to allow access to the house. The owners bought the house last May 2018.

D. Anderson explained that two trees on the other side of the road on DCR property are dead. DCR gave Field Resources approval to remove two trees from property which will be done in April. The applicant cannot replace trees on DCR property. A. Crocker asked whether snags could be left. D. Anderson stated that the trees are up against a guardrail. J. Carter Bernardo stated that the stumps shouldn't be excavated out and the Commission agreed to recommend that 6' snags be left. The owners' backyard is outside the Commission's jurisdiction. The owner asked about plantings of trees. J. Carter Bernardo asked D. Anderson to include in the Order of Conditions that a landscaping plan of trees and shrubs for the front yard be submitted by the applicant to Conservation for approval before installing anything.

Motion to close the public hearing for 27 Hamilton Place (DEP File #234-829) by A. Crocker, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue the Order of Conditions as amended for 27 Hamilton Place (DEP File #234-829) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

LINDEN & CYPRESS STREETS (DEP FILE #234-741) - REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Paul Beaulieu from Field Resources explained that all the structures have been constructed, the stormwater inspected, and Jorge Oslan the developer hired New England Stormwater LLC to complete a report which was submitted to Conservation. J. Carter Bernardo was pleased with the report. She also stated that all the requirements of the Order have been completed and though a neighbor has expressed that she is not satisfied with the four trees planted along the property line, the developer (applicant) has fulfilled his responsibilities and should be able to close out this permit.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for Linden & Cypress Street (DEP File #234-741) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

DEDHAM AVENUE – POTENTIAL TREE REMOVAL

Ed Olsen, Superintendent of Parks & Forestry asked D. Anderson to walk to DeFazio Park to look at trees along Dedham Avenue (going towards train tracks) that he has marked for removal. The 25 trees are either dead or in decline, mostly pines and would like to replace them with hardwoods. The trees are eastern hemlocks, and white pine. S. Barber asked why so many in

decline. D. Anderson stated that Ed thinks stress created from the road wash (salt, etc.) since they are close to road has caused their decline. A. Richardson explained that though pines are considered soft, they are brittle. Ed offered to take any of the Commissioners on a walk to show them the trees. A. Richardson suggested a mix of oaks be planted. Since the area is within the buffer zone it is coming before the Commission. D. Anderson showed the Commissioners photos that Ed submitted. Unless the trees are dead the policy of 2:1 for every tree removed would be followed. J. Carter Bernardo asked if Ed Olsen would come back to the Commission with specific trees that he proposes to install. D. Anderson said that this is what she would expect. A. Richardson recommended that the trees be installed a bit farther from the road though she also noted that deciduous trees withstand the road wash and salt better than most. J. Carter Bernardo and A. Richardson would like to see a list of trees that they propose similar to what the Commission expects from other applicants. A. Richardson explained that woodland management can be very successful for pines when they have space, light and air to grow strong. This will be handled as an Administrative Approval but D. Anderson wanted to bring the subject to the Commission and give them the opportunity to walk the area with Ed Olsen if they chose to.

RIDGE HILL USE – TRAIL 5K RUN/WALK MAY 12, 2019

D. Anderson explained that she was approached by Christa Kelleher to use Ridge Hill for a fundraiser run on May 12th. The event would bring in 50-60 people, and necessitate parking for 15-20 cars. The applicant asked about the availability of bathrooms; D. Anderson is looking into this. D. Anderson stated that she would recommend that attendees and onlookers stay out of meadows and strictly on trails or pavement. The fundraiser is to benefit thymoma research, an autoimmune disease that's a neurological disease. J. Carter Bernardo likes giving the public opportunities to use and see Ridge Hill. She would also like the attendees to use the property keeping to the loop, staying out of the meadow. She would like a sketch of where they intend to run.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37pm.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

March 28, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.