

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, April 11, 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), Elisa Litchman (Administrative Assistant).

GUESTS: Jordan Burke, Karon Skinner Catrone, Joan Feeny, Bryan Picariello.

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

MINUTES: Minutes for the March 28, 2019 meeting were reviewed and amended.

Motion to approve the minutes of March 28, 2019 as amended by W. Murphy, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 5-0-0.

HEARINGS:

18 BROOKSIDE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-831) – NOTICE OF INTENT

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public hearing at 7:45pm. Karon Skinner Catrone represents the applicant, Jordan Burke. The applicant proposes to construct a 735 square foot addition and a 237 square-foot deck to the rear of an existing single-family house. The proposed work is within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands associated with a pond. The addition will be constructed where there is an existing brick patio and wooden deck which will be razed. A new bulkhead is also proposed.

No trees are to be removed. Invasive plants such as Oriental bittersweet will be removed. The Commission recommended that in addition to silt fence erosion controls, compost sock also be installed. No test pits have been conducted on site and the Commission recommended that be done. The Commission also discussed the stormwater runoff and the new Town Stormwater Guidelines. Based on these guidelines new additions greater than 50% of the existing building footprint must collect the runoff from the roof of the addition plus runoff from the roof of the entire existing structure. Based on the proposed plans the applicant will need to add another chamber for stormwater runoff. The volume of runoff managed must be 1” times the impervious area on the lot.

W. Murphy asked if the applicant would remove fill off-site which was confirmed by K. Skinner Catrone. J. Carter Bernardo mentioned that there will be an Operations and Maintenance plan for the stormwater chambers that will be included and required to be signed by the homeowner as part of the Certificate of Compliance, when that time comes.

April 11, 2019

Motion to continue the public hearing to April 25, 2019 at 8:15pm by A. Crocker, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 5-0-0.

77 WAYNE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-830) – *Continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

J. Carter Bernardo opened the hearing at 8:03pm. Karon Skinner Catrone represented the builder Bruce Ricciardelli. Several of the items requested by the Commission at the last meeting were submitted. The Commission and K. Skinner Catrone concluded that the new plan has some typos. J. Carter Bernardo stated that the roof runoff for this project needs to collect the volume of the driveway runoff. Sheet 1 of the plans shows grade elevations that are not equal on right and left sides of property; they need to be equal. The infiltration chambers need to be 10' off the property line and 10' off the house, preferably on downhill side of house.

At the last meeting the Commission had asked for more information about the trees, the types, the sizes, and the condition. The applicant had submitted a letter from an arborist regarding the trees proposed for removal. Both the Commission with the advice of the Town of Needham Superintendent of Forestry agreed that some of the arborist's comments that the trees "could pose a danger in the future" seem to warn of a non-specific hazard since all trees could at some point pose a danger. B. Ricciardelli added that he would install as many trees as the Conservation Commission wants. He also stated that the root system of the proposed trees for removal is the same size as the canopy which could very much be jeopardized due to the proposed foundation. Joan Feeny and her husband who live across the street attended the hearing and asked why the house had to be set-back so far into the property that would require taking trees down and encroaching on the wetland habitat. B. Ricciardelli explained why the house could not be located closer to the street since the zoning setback requirement precludes that at 25-feet. A. Richardson agreed that destabilizing the tree when digging is probable. She stated for the record that the trees could potentially be a hazard. B. Ricciardelli is willing to compensate for the removal of the trees.

The planting plan submitted shows invasive shrubs to be removed (burning bush). Four proposed trees and 14 shrubs will mitigate for six trees to be removed. The Commission's replacement tree policy is 4:1 shrubs or 2:1 trees. The Commission reviewed and confirmed for the applicant and representative that the 25' no disturb zone is the most important area and the 50' is the wildlife habitat which is important to maintain as well. A. Richardson recommended that the applicant plant two more trees, fix the plans, the spelling mistakes and show exactly what is to be removed. She investigated quickly the resistograph equipment online and thinks it was probably a useful tool.

J. Carter Bernardo explained that footprint of the house has been set and is meeting the criteria that we have accepted on other applications and allowed in the past. She continued by saying it is not within the Commission's jurisdiction to say that the design of the house needs to be changed. The Commission has in the past allowed the removal of trees within a similar setback. Trees removed can be mitigated with more and new healthy trees which absorb stormwater, provide habitat and reduce flooding issues. She suggested that the new trees be 2 ½" – 3" caliper. The Commission asked to preserve the 19" red maple if feasible and move the cultecs so that they are next to each other and not near the tree. D. Anderson had mentioned to the Commission that

certified arborists are not using the term “Hazard tree”. A. Crocker asked that D. Anderson forward to the Commission the information related to the current terminology used by certified arborists.

The Commission determined that five new trees and fourteen new shrubs should be proposed. A new planting plan with spelling corrections, correct diameters of trees and location of trees should be submitted to the Commission.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 77 Wayne Road (DEP File #234-830) to April 25th, 2019 at 8:30pm by A. Crocker, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

April 25, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.

April 11, 2019