

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 13, 2019**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair) arrived at 7:55pm, Sue Barber, William Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Debbie Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

GUESTS: Ted Ballard, Stephanie Dewey, Stephen Dewey, Fred Keylor, David Miller, Ardi Rrapi.

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

MINUTES: Minutes for the May 23, 2019 meeting were reviewed. The minutes were tabled until the June 27 meeting to allow the Staff to review the meeting recording and confirm the voting details.

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS

None.

HEARINGS:

80 COUNTRY WAY (DEP FILE #234-835) – NOTICE OF INTENT

P. Oehlkers opened the hearing at 7:45pm. Adri Rrapi of Cheney Engineering Co. presented the project on behalf of the Applicants who could not be at the meeting. A. Rrapi stated that the Applicants are proposing to demolish the existing house and construct a new house, with reconfigurations to the driveway, yard, and site grading. Seven trees are proposed to be removed, six of which are within the 100-foot Buffer Zone. A. Rrapi stated that the areas of existing lawn within the 25-foot Buffer Zone will be removed and allowed to naturalize. Additionally, A. Rrapi stated a retaining wall will be installed along the 25-foot Buffer Zone to accommodate the proposed grading of the site and to prevent encroachments into the 25-foot Buffer Zone. The adjacent driveway will be replaced with pervious pavement and will be expended to include a pull-through in the front of the property. The proposed house will be 47 feet from the wetland boundary. An underground infiltration chamber will be installed in the front of the house and in the back of the house to each capture half of the roof runoff, sized for the one-inch storm.

A. Richardson asked if the property owners were aware of the expense and long-term maintenance that may be required to keep the pervious pavement functioning as intended. J. Carter Bernardo noted that the property owners will have to come back before the Commission for approval if they decide to use something other than the pervious pavement, and that they will be required to sign an Operations and Maintenance Plan. A. Richardson requested the Applicant provide specification details on the proposed retaining wall to ensure the construction activities do not encroach into the 25-foot Buffer Zone.

A. Rrapi provided a letter from Christopher M. Galasso of G/T Equipment and Landscaping, INC. which stated the trees proposed for removal are over-mature, the two oaks will have root damage when the retaining wall is installed, and most of the trees are multi-leadered, making them susceptible to wind shear. A. Richardson requested a proposed planting list for the restoration areas within the 25-foot Buffer Zones. P. Oehlkers

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requested a more detailed report from a certified arborist. Ted Ballard, an abutter of 80 Country Way, asked for clarification on the abutter notification language and the Commission's jurisdiction, while raising concern over the proposed loss of mature trees in the threat of climate change.

D. Anderson noted that the stream appears on the USGS maps as a perennial stream, and recommended the Commission request greater stream details and findings from a wetland scientist to support the Applicant's claims that the stream is intermittent, and not subject to Riverfront Area requirements. W. Murphy requested greater details on the soil types where the infiltration chambers are proposed as well as specifications on any fill materials that will be brought to the site.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 80 Country Way (DEP File #234-835) to June 27th, 2019 at 7:45pm by S. Barber, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 5-0-0.

98 SUTTON ROAD (DEP FILE #234-834) – NOTICE OF INTENT

J. Carter Bernardo opened the hearing at 8:45pm. Adri Rrapi of Cheney Engineering Co. presented the project on behalf of Stephen and Stephanie Dewey. A. Rrapi reviewed the proposed work, including the repairs to an existing house foundation and the construction of an addition in the footprint of an existing deck, and the construction of a new deck from the addition. The additional footprint will increase the impervious surfaces by 65 square feet. An infiltration chamber is proposed to capture all the roof runoff from the back half of the house including the proposed addition. Two existing pipes span under the backyard and discharge to the stream channel. A. Rrapi stated that one of the pipes will be removed and the other will be connected to the infiltration chamber to serve as an overflow output. Work is proposed to be conducted over the summer during the dry season. No work is proposed within the 25-foot Buffer Zone and no trees are proposed for removal. D. Anderson pulled up the NRCS online soil maps on the projector to confirm the soil type for the site.

Motion to close the hearing for 98 Sutton Road (DEP File #234-834) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue Order of Conditions for 98 Sutton Road (DEP File #234-834) by P. Oehlkers, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION – 1191 GREENDALE AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-749)

Fred Keylor of H.W. Moore Associates and David Miller of Robert Olson and Associates presented the request for minor modification. F. Keylor stated that the proposed change of scope consists of relocating a door and associated curb-cut and walkway from the center of the building to the side, shifting parallel to the wetland boundary. The area between the former door and curb cut will be loamed and seeded to return to previous green space. The new door and walkway will not be closer to the wetland area.

Motion to approve the minor modification for 1191 Greendale Avenue (DEP File #234-749) by W. Murphy, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 4-0-0 (J. Bernardo not present yet).

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE – 3 MARY CHILTON ROAD (DEP FILE #234-615)

D. Anderson stated that Staff conducted a site visit prior to the hearing to confirm the site conditions and completed work. D. Anderson noted that most of the activities that were approved were not completed and that the final scope of work was smaller than what was permitted, though all requirements were met. The completed work included the construction of a deck, retaining wall, and removal of invasive knotweed. S. Barber asked if the headwall in the back of the property that was permitted was required to be completed and D. Anderson reviewed the file history, stating that the headwall was ultimately not required. D. Anderson confirmed that Staff was comfortable with the request for certificate of compliance.

Motion to approve the Certificate of Compliance for the 3 Mary Chilton Road (DEP File #234-615) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

RIDGE HILL RESERVATION USE APPROVAL – MASSDEP CHARLES RIVER WATERSHED NETWORK MEETING

D. Anderson stated that a representative from MassDEP called the office about using the Ridge Hill Reservation for a plant identification workshop. They expect to host about 20 people and will be walking the site for the purposes of identifying plants in the field. P. Oehlkers was pleased that Ridge Hill Reservation was going to be utilized for the workshop.

WPA EMERGENCY CERTIFICATION – 0 STANDISH ROAD (VOLANTE FARM) – BEAVER DAM BREACHING

Staff received a request for an emergency certification to breach a beaver dam and alleviate flooding at Volante Farm. D. Anderson stated that Volante Farm previously had a Notice of Intent for beaver management including installation of beaver deceiver devices, but the permit has since expired. The Board of Health issued a 10-day permit for trapping, triggering the request for emergency certification to breach the dam. D. Anderson stated that Volante Farm will be back in with a new Notice of Intent application for humane beaver management.

RATIFY ENFORCEMENT ORDER – 403 GROVE STREET

Motion to ratify the Enforcement Order for 403 Grove Street made by A. Richardson, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

RATIFY ENFORCEMENT ORDER – SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT

Motion to ratify the Enforcement Order for Solitude Lake Management made by A. Richardson, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

390 GROVE STREET – POSSIBLE OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITY

D. Anderson stated that Lee Newman, Director of Planning and Community Development, approached Conservation Staff about a possible future subdivision proposal for 390 Grove Street. An area in the back of the property consists of wetlands that connect to Ridge Hill Reservation. D. Anderson handed out a parcel map of the area for the Commission's consideration if there are any future opportunities for acquisition of the property

or a conservation restriction. P. Oehlkers stated that it would be useful to know who owns the other abutting properties to see if there are any connectivity opportunities for trail access. Staff will look into the abutting owners and report back to the Commission at a future meeting.

PROPOSED MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITIES ON THE CHARLES RIVER RAIL TRAIL

Norfolk County Mosquito Control sent a notice to Staff about proposed work along the Bay Colony Rail Trail near Charles River Street to alleviate flooded areas that may promote mosquito breeding. D. Anderson stated that most mosquito control activities are exempt under the Wetlands Protection Act, but that Conservation Staff are coordinating a site visit with Parks and Forestry and Norfolk County Mosquito Control to review the proposed work, the possible impacts to vegetation, and any other safety concerns.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by P. Oehlkers, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

June 27, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.