

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 22, 2019**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, William Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

GUESTS: Karon S. Catrone, Pratik Pradhan, Erik Raisman, John Whalen.

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes from the August 8, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2019 by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-1 (P. Oehlkers abstained).

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS

233 COUNTRY WAY

Pratik Pradhan, the homeowner, was present for the discussion. Mr. Pradhan reviewed the site history in context of the recent site work and stated that the wetland had not been identified on any available maps prior to the work commencing at the neighboring 245 Country Way property, and that they weren't apprised of the wetland areas until a couple of weeks ago during the discovery process. The Commission noted that the land surveyors should have been able to identify the wetland area initially. Staff presented photos from the site visit with the property owner, displaying a small debris field outside of the installed fence, as well as disturbed soils and grading. The homeowner stated that there were about three trees removed from the site.

The Commission discussed the appropriate mechanisms to bring the site into compliance, and requested Staff draft an Enforcement Order requiring a wetland delineation and restoration planting plan. The planting plan should extend onto the neighboring property at 245 Country Way, with the neighbor's permission, to fully address the scope of unpermitted alterations. The Commission set the deadline for submission of the restoration planting plan as September 19, 2019, to be reviewed at the September 26 hearing. The Commission opted not to issue fines.

HEARINGS:

245 COUNTRY WAY (DEP FILE #234-813 – REQUEST TO AMEND ORDER OF CONDITIONS)

J. Carter Bernardo opened the hearing at 8:05pm. Karon Skinner Catrone represented the homeowner, Erik Raisman, at the meeting. The hearing had previously been continued to allow the Commission to conduct a site visit to review the trees proposed for removal. Each Commissioner provided input based on their individual site observations, discussing the cluster of pine trees in the rear of the house, the maple trees on the sides of house covered in bittersweet vines, and the pine tree in the front of the house. A. Richardson suggested that cabling the

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leaders of the pine tree in the front of the house may not be long lasting or effective as the double leaders are very large. A. Richardson also stated that the pine trees were mature and likely had shallow roots and were significantly close to the house structure. A. Crocker asked if the maple trees would survive if the bittersweet vines were removed. The Commission requested that the Applicant choose native alternative plantings instead of the flowering pears proposed at the front of the house.

Motion to issue an Amended Order of Conditions for 245 Country Way (DEP File #234-813) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-1 (P. Oehlkers abstained).

OTHER BUSINESS:

ROSEMARY LAKE DREDGING PROJECT (DEP FILE #234-793) – PROJECT UPDATE BY STAFF

Staff updated the Commission about the pre-construction meeting that was held between the Conservation Staff, DPW Staff, BETA Group Inc., and Maverick Construction Management Services Inc. C. Hutchinson stated that the timelines for the work were expected to begin with the lake draw-down in early October. Staff noted that they were awaiting details for the proposed refueling of machinery and dewatering of sediment from the Contractor. The Commission was informed by Staff of the date and time of the upcoming pre-construction site visit with DEP.

POTENTIAL STUDENT CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION (SCA) PROJECTS FOR 2020 - DISCUSSION

Staff informed the Commission Members that the application deadline for project proposals to the Student Conservation Association (SCA) was approaching. The Commission discussed past SCA projects as well as potential proposal submissions for 2020, including bridges and culverts as well as trail erosion control features at Ridge Hill Reservation and trail work at Rosemary Lake.

ROSEMARY BROOK WALL REPAIR UPDATES

Staff informed the Commission about the progress on the wall repairs along Rosemary Brook between Border Road and Meadowbrook Road. Three trees were proposed to be removed by DPW because the root systems encroaching behind the wall cause structural failure. C. Hutchinson stated that the DPW will replace the trees with native species at a further distance from the wall repairs to prevent future impairments. The Commission reviewed photos of the three trees. Staff will coordinate the replacement planting types and locations with DPW.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

September 12, 2019 at 7:30pm in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.