

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, December 3, 2020**

Under Governor Baker's emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, S20," issued March 12, 2020 and in effect until termination of the emergency, meeting of public bodies may be conducted virtually provided that adequate access is provided to the public.

LOCATION: Zoom Virtual Platform – the meeting was held virtually per Governor Baker's Emergency Order.

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

GUESTS: Burt Hurlock, Margaret Kelly, Tobin Kelly, Brandon Li, Steven J. Meyers, John Rockwood.

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

MINUTES:

None.

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS

None.

HEARINGS:

54 PHEASANT LANDING ROAD (DEP FILE #324-856) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

The hearing had been continued to await a DEP File Number. The Applicant was still awaiting a DEP File Number and requested a continuance to the next public meeting.

Motion to continue the hearing for 54 Pheasant Landing Road (DEP File #234-856) to January 7, 2021, at 7:30pm by A. Crocker, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 6-0-0.

766 CHESTNUT STREET (DEP FILE #234-858) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

The hearing had been continued to await a DEP File Number. The Applicant was still awaiting a DEP File Number and requested a continuance to the next public meeting.

Motion to continue the hearing for 766 Chestnut Street (DEP File #234-858) to January 7, 2021, at 7:30pm by A. Crocker, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 6-0-0.

100 EDGEWATER DRIVE (DEP FILE #234-855) – NOTICE OF INTENT

Brandon Li of Kelly Engineering, Steven J. Meyers, the Architect, and Burt Hurlock, the Applicant, were present for the hearing. The work proposed included the construction of an addition on the south side and a new garage on the north side of an existing single-family house. The property abuts the Charles River and includes Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW), Riverfront Area, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF). No work was

proposed within the Riverfront Area or BLSF, and only the garage footprint was within the 100-foot Buffer Zone to the BVW. Subsurface stormwater units were proposed for both the addition and garage, to be located outside of the wetland jurisdictions. B. Li confirmed that there were no proposed tree removals within jurisdiction.

Motion to close the hearing for 100 Edgewater Drive (DEP File #234-855) made by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for 100 Edgewater Drive (DEP File #234-855) made by W. Murphy, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

81 CHARLES RIVER STREET (DEP FILE #234-650) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

John Rockwood of EcoTec was present for the discussion. J. Rockwood reviewed the completed work and mitigation planting monitoring reports. He noted that the original plantings were heavily grazed, and many were replaced after the first growing season with new plant species reviewed by the Commission. Further grazing occurred and the final plantings had not reached 75% survival. J. Rockwood also noted that the invasive species had been removed and that the homeowners had received training to identify the invasive species for future removal. D. Anderson stated that the site was largely re-vegetated naturally and that the invasives had been knocked-back.

Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 81 Charles River Street (DEP File #234-650) made by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

SWEET PRESERVE BOARDWALK STUDY

Conservation Staff had been approached by Jeanne McKnight, the Chair of the Planning Board regarding the Sweet Preserve property. Staff informed the Commission that they had walked the site with Mrs. McKnight and discussed the logistics for a boardwalk connecting the Sweet Preserve with the old Hillside School property. Staff will continue to collaborate with a small working group to solicit a feasibility study and potential funding for a boardwalk.

HEATHER LANE PROPOSED CONSERVATION RESTRICTION REVIEW

A Conservation Restriction draft was given to the Commission by the Planning Board Staff to be incorporated into the Planning Board Decision regarding the proposed Heather Lane Subdivision. Conservation Staff reviewed the Restriction plans and noted that future properties within the subdivision would still be required to come before the Commission for any work proposed within the wetland jurisdictions. The subdivision roadway and roadway stormwater system had previously been issued an Order of Conditions. The Commission reviewed the Conservation Restriction and noted that public access to the Charles River was not guaranteed in the Restriction language.

Motion to accept the Conservation Restriction for the Heather Lane Subdivision as proposed as part of the Planning Board Application by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by W. Murphy, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

January 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually broadcast through the Zoom Virtual Platform.