

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 24, 2021**

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: Peter Oehlkers (Vice Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, Alison Richardson, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

GUESTS: Karon Skinner Catrone, Paul Hemond, Scott Henderson, Cindy Macgowan, Flavia Monanari, Scott Ridder.

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

MINUTES:

None.

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS:

None.

HEARINGS:

1625 GREAT PLAIN AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-869) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

Cindy Macgowan, the Applicant, and Paul Hemond, the builder, were present for the hearing. The hearing had been continued from the previous meeting to await a DEP File Number and for the Applicant to provide test pit and stormwater information. The Applicant's consultant submitted the updated stormwater plan to the Commission the day prior to the hearing. D. Anderson stated that Staff, Commission Members, and the Commission Chair had not had enough time to review the stormwater information for the project. C. Macgowan commented that the request for the stormwater information within the given timeframe was unreasonable and the Commission discussed with the Applicant the application process, the application material requirements, and the regulatory timelines. The Commission noted that review of the stormwater information would be completed and a draft Order of Conditions would be ready for the July 8, 2021 public meeting.

Motion to continue the hearing for 1625 Great Plain Avenue (DEP File #234-869) to July 8, 2021, at 7:00pm by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-0.

83 ROLLING LANE (DEP FILE #234-870) – NOTICE OF INTENT

Scott Henderson of Henderson Consulting Services presented the application on behalf of the Applicant. The proposed work included the installation of a pool and construction of a series of cascading retaining walls into the existing slope behind the house. A playset was proposed for removal along with the re-naturalization of lawn area within the 25-foot Buffer Zone. Two trees at the base of the slope were proposed for removal within the

footprint of the regrading and retaining walls, and nine new trees were proposed as mitigation, including two new trees within the 25-foot Buffer Zone re-naturalization area. A subsurface stormwater unit was proposed in the lower lawn area to capture the pool runoff and retaining wall weepholes.

S. Henderson requested that a special condition be placed in the Order of Conditions to require test pit information be submitted prior to construction in lieu of providing test pit information before closing the hearings. S. Henderson stated that this was because access to the proposed stormwater unit location will require grading and substantial disturbance to get down the slope with the equipment. C. Hutchinson also noted that there was mapped Natural Heritage Estimated Habitat at the back of the property and requested that the Commission require NHESP approve the work prior to the Commission issuing an Order of Conditions. S. Henderson also stated that the retaining walls would require approval from the Design Review Board and Zoning Board of Appeals at public meetings later in July. S. Henderson requested a continuance to July 22, 2021 to allow time for the pending information and other Board reviews.

Motion to continue the hearing for 83 Rolling Lane (DEP File #234-870) to July 22, 2021, at 7:00pm by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NEEDHAM ACCESSIBLE RESERVOIR TRAIL AT 500 DEDHAM AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-761) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Scott Ridder of BETA Group Inc was present for the discussion. The original project was the construction of the accessible trail around the reservoir at 500 Dedham Avenue. S. Ridder reviewed the completed work including the sections of boardwalk, grading, trail materials, dock, and wetland planting. The work was completed five years ago and required one-, two-, and five-year monitoring. D. Anderson stated that Town Staff had worked with the contractors to maintain the plantings around the reservoir and noted that the five-year monitoring report was provided but that the one- and two-year reports were never completed. The Commission discussed the need to address the overall accountability for applicants to submit the progressive monitoring reports, and requested the topic be discussed in greater length at a future meeting.

Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for the Needham Accessible Reservoir Trail at 500 Dedham Avenue (DEP File #234-761) made by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-0.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

July 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. virtually broadcast through the Zoom Virtual Platform.