

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 7, 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: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, William Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

GUESTS: Bill Halsing, Gail Hedges, Tom Hedges, Tripp Pace, Bruce Ringwall, Diane Simonelli, Jonathan Trahan.

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. A DEP File Number was issued along with comments from DEP regarding quantifying the temporary impacts to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands for the installation of the replacement plantings. Staff requested the Applicant to update the Notice of Intent WPA Form with the anticipated square footage for planting the root balls of all mitigation plantings within the wetland area for the record.

Motion to close the hearing for 54 Pheasant Landing Road (DEP File #234-856 by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.

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

The hearing had been continued to await a DEP File Number. As the DEP File Number was issued and was the only outstanding item, the Commission closed the hearing.

Motion to close the hearing for 766 Chestnut Street (DEP File #234-858) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.

75 HIGH ROCK STREET (DEP FILE #234-857) – NOTICE OF INTENT

Bill Halsing of Land Planning Inc. presented the project. The proposed work consisted of the removal of an existing garage structure, repaving of the existing driveway, and installation of a new shed structure. The existing garage is partially within the 25-foot Buffer Zone. The new shed will be placed outside of the 25-foot Buffer Zone and a gravel walkway will be installed within existing lawn for access to the shed. The temporary disturbances within the 25-foot Buffer Zone will be seeded and returned to vegetation. No trees are proposed for removal.

Motion to close the hearing for 75 High Rock Street (DEP File #234-857) made by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.

Motion to issue a waiver for work within the 25-foot Buffer Zone for 75 High Rock Street (DEP File #234-857) made by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 7-0-0.

Motion to waive the waiver fee for work within the 25-foot Buffer Zone for 75 High Rock Street (DEP File #234-857) made by S. Farr, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 7-0-0.

Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for 75 High Rock Street (DEP File #234-857) made by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 7-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

52 ELDER ROAD (DEP FILE #234-846) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Tripp Pace, the Applicant, was present for the discussion. C. Hutchinson reviewed the Staff notes for the request for Certificate of Compliance, stating that the deviations included a small change to the required mitigation plantings and fencing outside of the 25-foot Buffer Zone. The work on the house and yard had been completed satisfactorily outside of these deviations. The fencing was approved by an Administrative Approval and the required wetland emblems were installed on the new fence. Staff recommended issuance of a partial Certificate of Compliance for all work excluding the required 2-year monitoring of the mitigation plantings.

Motion to issue the partial Certificate of Compliance for 52 Elder Road (DEP File #234-846) made by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.

PERRAULT ROAD (Map 101 Lots 12,13,14,15,16,18 & 19) (DEP FILE #234-783) – OOC EXTENSION REQUEST

Staff had received a request to extend the Order of Conditions for Perrault Road (DEP File #234-783) for two years. The original work included the repaving of Perrault Road and installation of stormwater improvements. The outstanding items were the installation of the final top pavement, delayed by winter weather and Covid-19 protocol logistics.

Motion to issue a 2-year extension to January 7, 2023, for the Order of Conditions for Perrault Road (DEP FILE #234-783) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 7-0-0.

147 OXBOW ROAD (DEP FILE #234-797) – OOC EXTENSION REQUEST

Joseph White of Williams and Sparages presented the request for extension of the Order of Conditions. The majority of the work was completed for the construction of a pool but remaining items included the construction

of the pool house and installation of the seasonal float. The Applicant needed to find a new architect for the project, causing the delay. The request is for one additional year.

Motion to issue a 1-year extension to January 17, 2022, for the Order of Conditions for 147 Oxbow Road (DEP File #234-797) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.

EVERSOURCE NEEDHAM RELIABILITY PROJECT (DEP FILE #234-799) – OOC EXTENSION REQUEST

S. Farr recused himself from this discussion item. D. Anderson stated that the Eversource Representative was not able to attend the meeting but had submitted a request to extend the Order of Conditions for the Eversource Needham Reliability Project (DEP File #234-799). The original project included the construction of the new combination overhead and underground transmission lines through Cutler Park. The overhead work, and mitigation plantings, had been completed but the underground work was still outstanding. The Applicant's request noted that they anticipate completion in June of 2021, requesting a 1-year extension.

Motion to issue a 1-year extension to February 13, 2022, for the Order of Conditions for Eversource Needham Reliability Project (DEP File #234-799) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0 (S. Farr recused from vote).

RESERVOIR TRAIL – YETI WALK

Staff received a request to hold a self-paced walk around the reservoir trail during February, which will include the temporary placement of printed cardstock Yetis. Participants will look for the Yetis along the trail like a scavenger hunt. Staff notified the Commission of the walk.

DISCUSSION – REVISED REMOTE MEETING TIME

The Commission discussed changing the Conservation Commission Public Meeting start times to 7:00pm until in-person meetings resume. The Commission was favorable to moving the meeting earlier while meeting remotely. Staff will begin posting future meetings for 7:00pm until in-person meetings resume.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

January 28, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. virtually broadcast through the Zoom Virtual Platform.