



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749  
(978) 562-2948

*Paul Byrne, Chairman*

*Joseph Rodrigues*

*Marianne Iarossi*

*David Mercer*

*Emilie Schuler*

*Brandon Parker*

*Jason Weksner*

### **Meeting Minutes September 14, 2017**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by vice-chair David Mercer**

**Roll Call: David Mercer, Joe Rodrigues, Marianne Iarossi, Brandon Parker, Jason Weksner**

**Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)**

### **Public Hearings**

**75 Hunter Ave, NOI, 190-0606**

**Present: Michael Saliga (property owner), Evan Underwood (contractor)**

The applicant proposes to replace a patio, regrade the yard, build retaining walls, and cut 12 large trees in the Buffer Zone to Lake Boon. Joe Rodrigues said that all stockpiles must be away from the water. Evan Underwood agreed and said that erosion controls would be installed along the length of the water and around any stockpiles. He will be using a small excavator or bobcat. Marianne Iarossi said she would like to see trees and/or native shrubs planted. Jason Weksner had accompanied Pam Helinek on a site visit to look at the trees proposed to be cut. He said it was clear a couple of trees needed to be cut to do the work and asked why the other trees were proposed to be cut. Michael Saliga said that falling branches caused damage to his the boats and docks. Jason Weksner had flagged 4 trees that he agreed could be cut. Some of the trees are surrounded by unusual walled enclosures. Brandon Parker said that the proposed new patio was 46% larger than the original patio, not similar size as the contractor stated. Pam Helinek read the DEP comments which pointed out a discrepancy in the length of bank to be altered and specified that the shoreline work be done when the water is low after drawdown.

The Commission agreed that the discussion about the trees was confusing without a site visit. A site visit was scheduled for Thursday September 21 at 5:30PM. David Mercer moved to continue the hearing to October 5 at 7:00. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 5-0-0.

### **Fort Meadow Reservoir, NOI, 190-06XX**

**Present: Lee Thomson (Fort Meadow Commission), Ellen King (55 Fort Meadow Dr, abutter), Marion Barry (2 Elizabeth Rd, abutter)**

The applicant (Fort Meadow Commission) is requesting a 5-year OOC to permit spraying of herbicide and manual removal of shoreline non-native invasive plants around Fort Meadow Reservoir. The current concern is phragmites, to be treated with glyphosate, but the OOC will be general enough to allow other shoreline invasives to be treated with appropriate herbicides. The applicant will request approval each year for the plants to be treated and herbicides to be used. Most of the spraying will be done from the water, but some work may need to be done on private property. The applicant will notify and work with property owners in these cases. The Marlborough Conservation Commission will be meeting next week to discuss the same NOI, and Pam Helinek will work with Priscilla Ryder, Marlborough Conservation Agent, so that both towns have the same conditions in their OOCs.

Spraying will be done in the fall when dry weather is forecast. Joe Rodrigues asked about boats spraying water and washing off the herbicide. Lee Thomson said that would not be a problem. Marianne Iarossi asked about the educational aspects of the project and whether there were steps that homeowners could take to reduce the risk of future invasive vegetation. There will be educational pamphlets included in the notification that goes to homeowners.

Dave Mercer moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions, with Special Conditions reflecting the specifications in the NOI, to be finalized in cooperation with the Marlborough Conservation Commission. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 5-0-0.

### **Administrative Business**

#### **Fort Meadow Reservoir Drawdown**

**Present: Lee Thomson**

The Fort Meadow Commission recommends a 4-foot drawdown to begin on October 2. The Marlborough Conservation Commission approved the drawdown at their August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Dave Mercer moved to approve the drawdown as proposed, second by Brandon Parker, vote 5-0-0.

#### **Violation – 8 Lamson Ave**

The property owner replaced a bulkhead in the Buffer Zone to Bruce's Pond. Although she was told by Pam Helinek that an RDA was required, she refused to reschedule the work in order to file the RDA. Pam Helinek sent an Enforcement Order by certified mail on September 1<sup>st</sup>, requiring the property owner to attend tonight's meeting, but the property owner has not signed to accept the Enforcement Order and did not appear at the meeting. Pam Helinek will attempt to hand deliver a new copy of the Enforcement Order requiring attendance at the October 5 meeting and will discuss the Commission's options with Town Counsel. She will also talk to the Building Inspector about whether a building permit should have been obtained.

**Minutes** – David Mercer moved to accept the minutes of August 31, 2017. Second by Marianne Iarossi, vote 5-0-0.

**Request for Plan Change – Highland Commons, 190-0481**

Matt Oates of Benderson Development has offered to hire wetland consultant Gene Crouch to review the calculations of mitigation money owed to Hudson. The Commission discussed whether this would be adequate to re-assure them of the validity of the amount, or if they wanted to hire their own consultant. Brandon Parker requested that a detailed spreadsheet be provided showing the basis of the calculations. Pam Helinek will ask Benderson Development to go ahead with the review by their consultant.

**Wetlands Protection Bylaw** – The Commission discussed whether to go ahead with the plan to put the Bylaw on the Spring Town Meeting warrant. Pam Helinek asked whether she should set up neighborhood meetings with residents of Lake Boon, Fort Meadow Reservoir, and along the Assabet River. Marianne Iarossi suggested tabling the discussion until the full Commission was present. Pam Helinek will include the current draft of the bylaw in the Commissioners' packets for discussion at the next meeting.

**Eversource project** – Brandon Parker asked about the intervener process. Pam Helinek will talk to the Town Manager about the status of the process.

**Adjournment**

David Mercer moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.