



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 October 19, 2017

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

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

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

Glendale Road, Lot 6A, RDA

Present: MaryAnn and Michael Rego

The applicants constructed a new house with a small portion in the Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands without filing with the Conservation Commission. Based on old flags they found near the wetlands they believed that they were just outside the Buffer Zone. After Pam Helinek contacted them they installed erosion controls and had the wetland delineated. The new delineation showed a small part of the house in the Buffer Zone. Construction is now complete. There was some discussion as to whether an after-the-fact Notice of Intent should be required or whether the after-the-fact RDA was sufficient. Joe Rodrigues moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Emilie Schuler, vote 6-0-0.

1 Park Street, Armory, RDA

The state is in the process of replacing a large roof, gutters and downspouts in Riverfront Area to the Assabet River. They installed hay bales and silt fence along the river but did not file with the Conservation Commission. All work is within a fenced area and there has been no disturbance near the river. Brandon Parker said that the hay bales should be removed immediately and the area thoroughly swept to avoid invasive seeds being deposited. Dave Mercer moved to issue a Negative Determination with the condition of removing the hay bales immediately, leaving the silt fence in place, and cleaning the area. Second by Emilie Schuler, vote 6-0-0.

Administrative Business

Minutes – Brandon Parker asked if Pam Helinek had incorporated his comments to the minutes of October 5. Pam Helinek had done so but hadn't distributed the corrected version. Emilie

Schuler moved to accept the minutes of October 5, 2017 as amended, contingent upon Pam Helinek distributing the corrected version for review. Second by Marianne Iarossi, vote 6-0-0.

Enforcement Action – WestRidge, 190-0418

At the previous meeting the Commission voted to issue an Enforcement Order requiring WestRidge to file a new NOI for completing planting work required by the expired OOC, consisting of vegetating a bare area above a wetland area behind 10-18 Stevens Road, and submitting the documentation required for a COC request for the expired OOC. Pam Helinek spoke with David Eastridge from Thorndike Development about the situation. He has since submitted the as-built plans and engineer's letter required for the COC request and would like to work with the Commission to complete work on the property. He said he could hydro-seed the area in question but would probably get better results in the spring when he could bring in loam. There is also a list of minor items in the engineer's letter that can be addressed this fall. Pam Helinek suggested that the work could be done under the Enforcement Order rather than require a new filing. David Mercer moved to allow the work to be done under the Enforcement Order; all work to be completed by November 15, 2017 including temporary stabilization of the area behind 10-18 Stevens; final planting behind 10-18 Stevens to be completed by May 1, 2018. Second by Marianne Iarossi, vote 6-0-0.

Wetlands Protection Bylaw

Present: Rev Rosanne Roberts

Marianne Iarossi said that she thinks the bylaw is important for Hudson, but that the outreach efforts we discussed would take a lot of time and commitment and that other commissioners had to be willing to pitch in if we were to move forward. She said that she didn't think the Commission should change the bylaw any further, but needed to make sure that the town knew what it was and understood it and to hopefully gain support for it. Pam Helinek suggested that instead of doing neighborhood coffees and similar weekend events the Commission could have information sessions at some of their regular meetings. Next meeting night, November 2, there are no Public Hearings so it would be a good time for the first information session. Emilie Schuler agreed that the Commission should not change the bylaw any further but try to generate support for the existing draft. David Mercer and Jason Weksner said they were in support of the bylaw but would not have time for outreach outside of regular meetings. Joe Rodrigues said he was against the bylaw. Brandon Parker said he was on the fence.

Pam Helinek said she could advertise the information session on the town website and facebook pages and the town email list, and would find out about sending flyers home from the schools. Emilie Schuler said she had contacts with all the third grade teachers. Reverend Rosanne Roberts said she would advertise the information session at her church and that she thought other clergy in Hudson would do the same.

Emilie Schuler moved to continue work on outreach for the Wetlands Protection Bylaw and to try to put it on the warrant for the spring Town Meeting. Second by Marianne Iarossi, Vote 4-2-0.

Discussion – Hiring of consultants for peer review

Pam Helinek reported that VHB was planning to file the ANRAD for Eversource in time for the November 16th meeting. If the Commission wants to require a peer reviewer, they can use Waterman Design on retainer without going to bid. Otherwise they need to send out an RFQ to at least 3 qualified contractors and choose the lowest bid. Pam Helinek will obtain the qualifications and experience of the wetland scientists at Waterman Design.

Adjournment

Emilie Schuler moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Marianne Iarossi, vote 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.