



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

Paul Byrne, Chairman

Joseph Rodrigues

Marianne Iarossi

David Mercer

Emilie Schuler

Catherine Childs

Brandon Parker

Meeting Minutes May 4, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by chair Paul Byrne

Roll Call: Paul Byrne, David Mercer, Joe Rodrigues, Marianne Iarossi, Emilie Schuler, Catherine Childs, Brandon Parker, Jason Weksner (Associate Commissioner)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

85 Fort Meadow Drive, RDA

Present: Bruce LaFreniere

The applicant submitted a plan for an existing 12'x16' deck and a proposed 12'x12' removable deck and gazebo in the Buffer Zone to Fort Meadow Reservoir. Paul Byrne moved to issue a negative determination with the condition that if the new deck is to be moved the applicant needs to get permission from the Commission in advance. Second by Marianne Iarossi, vote 7-0-0.

13 Temple Avenue, continued NOI, 190-0604

Present: Erica Bigelow and Patrick Thornton, 13 Temple Ave; Malcolm and Mary Taylor, 7 Proctor Ave; Carl Lindegren, 17 Temple Ave; Seth Weismer, 6 Lakeside Ave; James Hutchins, 8 Lakeside Ave; Emily Walsh, Solitude Lake Management

Emily Walsh of Solitude Lake Management submitted answers to the Commissions questions about the project. The weed barrier will be installed in advance of the work and will be staked on both sides and weighted along the bottom. It will be cleared every few days and removed one week after work is complete. The hydorrake removes about 50 yards of material a day. The work would be done after the annual herbicide treatment to minimize fragmentation and spread of invasive vegetation. Material would be left to dewater for about a week, then removed and turned into loam. Haybales would be used to prevent erosion from the off-load area into the cove. The offload area does not currently have any vegetation.

There was discussion of where the leaves and sediment are coming from – from the basin itself, from the brook, from Charter Oaks Country Club, from Main Street. Paul Byrne asked Pam Helinek to request a monitoring report from Charter Oaks, as required by a previous OOC. Joe

Rodrigues noted that the town uses salt instead of sand on the roads now so the treatment may last longer than last time. Erica Bigelow said that there will still be leaves, but that they hope to in the future to permit an aeration system which will help the leaves to decompose more quickly. Marianne Iarossi asked about the results of similar projects. Emily Walsh said that people were very happy with the results and saw the return of wildlife, and that the process usually needed to be repeated in 7-10 years.

Emily Walsh said that Solitude planned to work for 11-12 days removing 50 yards a day. Dewatering would probably only take two or three days depending on the material and weather. She will not be on site during the entire operation but will be on-call in the office. Brandon Parker asked if the barrier could be cleaned on a daily basis. Emily Walsh said she didn't expect much accumulation so the barrier wouldn't need to be cleaned that frequently. Brandon Parker asked about the hay bale usage, Pam Helinek said that straw bales or wattles should be used instead. Joe Rodrigues said that at least 2 stakes were required in each bale.

There was discussion about the catch basin on Proctor Road which seems inadequate to handle the runoff from Main Street. Marianne Iarossi said there is also a catch basin at the corner of Temple Street and Main Street which does not seem to be functioning. Pam Helinek will talk to DPW about both catch basins.

Marianne Iarossi requested before and after pictures and annual updates. Paul Byrne moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions. Special conditions: use double-staked straw bales or wattles around the dewatering area; inspect weed barrier daily and clean at a minimum every third day; submit annual monitoring reports; notify the Commission if more neighbors join the project. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 6-1-0.

Administrative Business

Discussion –Eversource filing

Pam Helinek, Catie Childs and Paul Byrne walked much of the MBTA ROW in advance of the Eversource MEPA filing. Eversource has filed with the Siting Review Board with a top choice of underground transmission lines through the ROW. There were significant wetlands and mature habitat along the route.

Discussion - Conservation Land updates

The parking lot and access trail at 10 Old North Road are complete. Pam Helinek has placed an order for signs and is trying to get the survey completed. A boy scout would like to construct a new loop trail as an Eagle Scout Project, and a younger scout troop would like to mark the existing trails.

This Sunday at 10:00 Emilie Schuler will lead a trail walk at Danforth along with Pam Helinek and members of the Recreation Division for the Freedom Way Hidden Treasures program.

Minutes – Paul Byrne moved to accept the minutes from April 20, 2017. Second by Catie Childs, vote 7-0-0.

Discussion - Wetlands Protection Bylaw

Marianne Iarossi met with the Lake Boon Commission. Their main concern is with the 25-foot No Disturb Zone. There was support for the Bylaw, although all but one attendee were from Stow. Fort Meadow Commission is meeting on May 18th, the same night as the next Commission meeting, in the Town Hall auditorium. The Lake Boon Association is meeting Sunday May 21 at 7:00 in Stow.

The Commission discussed whether to include the Regulations section in the Bylaw. Paul Byrne suggested that the Commission keep the right to have Regulations, but that they need to be discussed at two Public Hearings and that they require a majority vote of the full Commission. Marianne Iarossi suggested stating that the Regulations clarify implementation of the Bylaw but do not increase restrictions.

The Commission discussed whether to put the Bylaw on the Town Meeting Warrant for Fall 2017 or Spring 2018. Fall 2017 was preferred. Thursday June 22 at 7:00 was chosen for a Public Forum about the Bylaw.

Adjournment

Paul Byrne moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Catie Childs, vote 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.