



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

David Mercer, Chair
Heidi Graf

Emilie Wilder, Vice Chair
James Martin

Brandon Parker
Debbi Edelstein

Meeting Minutes April 16, 2020

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Hudson Conservation Commission was conducted via remote participation.

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

Roll Call: David Mercer, Brandon Parker, Emilie Wilder, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein, Paul Osborn(Asst Commissioner), Joseph Mullin (Asst Commissioner), Frank Caserta (Asst Commissioner)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

279 Brigham St, RDA

Present: Karen and Walter Brent

The applicant proposes to remove soil from an unpaved parking area in Flood Plain and Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, and add an equivalent amount of $\frac{3}{4}$ inch stones to reduce mud and erosion without changing elevations. Emilie Wilder said this would be an improvement over current conditions. James Martin requested that erosion controls be installed in the form of straw wattles along the limit of work and silt sacks in any catch basins. Walter Bent said that the lot pitches towards to street so wattles in the back would be unnecessary and there is no room wattles near the street. The nearest catch basin is several hundred yards away. Work will be done in dry conditions and all soil shall be removed immediately. Brandon Parker expressed concern about a lack of erosion controls.

Motion by Emilie Wilder to issue a Negative Determination, second by James Martin. Special Conditions: inspection by agent before work begins to determine if erosion controls are required; work to be done in dry conditions; all soil to be removed from site immediately with no stockpiling

Vote 6-0-0 by roll call:

In Favor: David Mercer, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein

136 Main Street, RDA

Present: Kim Degutis, GZA

The applicant represents the DCR Office of Dam Safety and proposes to prune vegetation along the bank of Bruce's Pond to dam safety requirements. Brandon Parker recused himself from the hearing. David Mercer asked if the vegetation would be replaced. Kim Degutis said that rye grass could be planted but woody vegetation could damage the dam's integrity. Emilie Wilder expressed concern that the vegetated band between the dirt parking area and Bruce's Pond was very narrow, and that if cars parked on the grass it would die, resulting in erosion to the pond. Heidi Graf said that she would have preferred an NOI so that conditions could have been enforced for monitoring and maintenance of the new vegetation but that she realized that it would take too long to file an NOI to meet the requirements of the Office of Dam Safety. She requested that the vegetation maintenance plan be submitted to the Commission. Debbi Edelstein requested that the report from the Office of Dam Safety be submitted for the Commission's records. Emilie Wilder requested that the area of the vegetated buffer be clearly marked and that no parking be allowed there. Kim Degutis said that vegetation pruning was a minor activity that did not require an NOI and that it was not in the Commission's jurisdiction to enforce parking restrictions. David Mercer said he thought that an RDA was appropriate for the proposed work.

James Martin moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by David Mercer. Conditions: a 6 foot vegetative strip be planted and maintained; Conservation Agent to be notified when work is complete to inspect the buffer strip. Vote 4-1-1 by roll call:

In favor: David Mercer, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein

Opposed: Emilie Wilder

Recused: Brandon Parker

- **MBTA ROW/Central Mass Line Railroad, continued NOI, 190-06xx**
- **17 Woodrow Street, continued NOI, 190-0644**
- **49 and 50 Houghton Street, NOI, 190-06xx**
- **32 Temi Road, NOI, 190-06xx**
- **Generic Trail Maintenance and Invasive Species Management, NOI, 190-06xx**

Motion by James Martin to continue the above scheduled NOI hearings: MBTA ROW/Central Mass Line Railroad to May 14, 2020 at 7:00PM, 17 Woodrow Street (190-0644) to May 21 at 7:00 PM. 40 and 50 Houghton Street to May 7, 2020 at 7:00 PM, 32 Temi Road to May 7 at 7:00 PM and Generic Trail Maintenance and Invasive Species Management to May 7 2020 at 7:00 PM. Second by Heidi Graf, vote 6-0-0 by roll call:

In Favor: David Mercer, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein

Administrative Business

Extension Request – 37 Coolidge Street, 190-0564

Present: Peter Bohlin, Michael Drayer

The applicant requests an extension on their OOC which has already been extended multiple time. The OOC will expire in June and they would like to continue to the end of the year. There has been a lot of progress on the project but there have also been delays. Brandon Parker said that when the Commission last extended the permit, it was clearly stated that this was the last

time. Emilie Wilder said she was ok with the extension but that the erosion controls should be checked to be sure they were being maintained correctly. Pam Helinek will inspect erosion controls next week. Emilie Wilder moved to extend the OOC to the end of the 2020 calendar year. Second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 5-1-0 by roll call:

In favor: David Mercer, Emilie Wilder, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein

Opposed: Brandon Parker

Minutes: Dave Mercer moved to approve the minutes from April 2, 2020. Second by Debbie Edelstein, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

In Favor: David Mercer, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein

Discussion – Lakeside Ave, Boulders in Buffer Zone to Lake Boon

This discussion was postponed to the next meeting due to the request of the lawyer for the person who has issued a complaint to the Commission. Pam Helinek corrected the wording of the agenda item which said “violation” because the issue is not actually a wetlands violation.

Discussion - Hunting in Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge

US Fish and Wildlife has proposed expanded hunting on several national refuges in Massachusetts including ARNWR. The new plan expands areas where hunting is allowed and adds carnivore (bear, coyote and fox) hunting in some areas. Only a small piece of the refuge is in Hudson, but it is an area where carnivore hunting is proposed. Emilie Wilder said she was in favor of the Commission submitting a letter opposing the expanded hunting proposal. Brandon Parker said he preferred to oppose the carnivore hunting, but not the expanded hunting of deer, waterfowl and turkey. Dave Mercer said he was concerned about the expanded hunting of migratory birds, but agreed to having the Commission oppose only carnivore hunting. Pam Helinek will draft a letter for the Commission’s review.

Adjournment

Brandon Parker moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

In Favor: David Mercer, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.