



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

David Mercer, Chair

Emilie Wilder, Vice Chair

Brandon Parker

Heidi Graf

James Martin

Debbi Edelstein

Meeting Minutes May 7, 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 7:10 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)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

32 Temi Road, NOI, 190-0645

Present: Peter Bemis, EDC; Nick and Cayte Ponte

Documents:

- Existing and Proposed Conditions Site Development Plan; prepared by Engineering Design Consultants; dated 3/10/20; final revision dated 5/4/20; signed and stamped by Walter M. Lewinski, PE #32327; scale 1"=20'

The applicant proposes to build an addition to a single family house in Riverfront Area and expand a driveway in Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. The driveway has been designed so that there is no change in floodplain elevation. The stream behind the house was created as a drainage ditch and has historically been treated as intermittent by the Commission, but DEP pointed out that it is perennial in USGS maps and should be treated as Riverfront Area. To meet Riverfront performance standards, the applicant has added cultec chambers to handle all stormwater runoff from the house and addition.

James Martin asked if any other houses on the street had run into similar problems with DEP. They have not. Brandon Parker said that the cultec units seemed like overkill for a small addition. Peter Bemis said that a gravel apron could be constructed around the perimeter of the house as an alternative. Emilie Wilder said she would be satisfied with the gravel apron if native plantings were added to further infiltrate runoff. Peter Bemis said he could design a modified

rain garden. Emilie Wilder moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions. Second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call. Special Conditions: A revised plan must be submitted before the OOC can be issued; a planting plan for the rain garden must be approved by the Commission before work begins.

49 and 50 Houghton Street, NOI, 190-06xx

10 Lakeside Ave, NOI, 190-06xx

Danforth Conservation Land, NOI, 190-06xx

Generic Trail Maintenance and Invasive Species Management, NOI, 190-06xx

Emilie Wilder moved to continue the 49 and 50 Houghton Street hearing to June 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM and the hearings for 10 Lakeside Ave, Danforth Conservation Land, and Generic Trail Maintenance to May 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Second by Debbie Edelstein, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Administrative Business

Minor Plan Change Request – Avidia Bank, 196 Washington Street, 190-0626

Present: Ray Murphy, Avidia Bank; Bob Chrusciel, Hancock Associates

Documents:

- Revised Stormwater Report In Support of Permit Site Plan for Avidia Bank; prepared by Hancock Associates; final revision date April 10, 2020
- Construction Drawings Avidia Bank Site Plan; prepared by Hancock Associates; revised April 10, 2020; scale 1"=10'

The applicant requests a number of minor changes to the approved plans and has submitted revised plans and a revised stormwater report. Bob Chrusciel described the changes. Brandon Parker moved to approve the Plan Change, second by David Mercer, vote 6-0-0.

Minutes: Emilie Wilder moved to approve the minutes from April 16, 2020. Second by Debbie Edelstein, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Discussion – Schedule for Eversource/DCR Hearing

The Commission discussed whether to have the continued Eversource/DCR via webinar on May 14, 2020 as it is currently scheduled. Eversource would like to proceed with the remote hearing. Heidi Graf recused herself from the discussion. Emilie Wilder moved to have the hearing as scheduled, second by James Martin, vote 5-0-1 by roll call.

Discussion – Riverwalk Project

The Commission discussed using some of the Highland Commons mitigation money to pay for invasives removal, native plantings, and other nature-based improvements along the Assabet River. The work has been proposed as part of the South Street Riverwalk project. Parts of the project qualify for MVP Action Grant money and the Commission contribution could be used as the town match for the grant. The grant application is due in early June.

Brandon Parker said he would rather just do the invasive control and not the rest of the project. Emilie Wilder said she supported the project, but wanted to know more details about the plans for invasives removal, erosion control, and plantings. James Martin asked about long term maintenance. The plan is to form a Friends group from local businesses and residents. He

expressed concern about forming such a group during the pandemic. Debbi Edelstein said that this was not a good time to try to do the project, with the many economic problems caused by the state of emergency and the uncertainty of being able to get the work done within the fiscal year. David Mercer said he thought it was a good use for the mitigation money but he agreed it wasn't a good time. Heidi Graf recused herself from the discussion since she works for BSC Group, the consultant for the project. Brandon Parker moved not to contribute to the project at this time, second by David Mercer, vote 4-1-1 by roll call: Yes: David Mercer, Brandon Parker, James Martin, Debbie Edelstein; No: Emilie Wilder; Abstention: Heidi Graf

Discussion – ARWLR Hunt Plan Comment Letter

Debbi Edelstein moved to submit the comment letter opposing the extensions to hunting regulations in Assabet River Wildlife Refuge. Second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Vote – Authorization of Conservation Agent to use electronic signatures

Emilie Wilder moved to authorize Conservation Agent Pam Helinek to use electronic signatures for the Conservation Commissioners on documents where signatures are required during the state of emergency. Second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0.

Discussion – Commission Vacancy

Present: Associate Commissioner Paul Osborn; Brooke Warrington

The candidates spoke about their background and interest in the Commission. Dave Mercer moved to recommend that the Selectmen appoint Paul Osborn as Conservation Commissioner and Brooke Warrington to fill his vacated spot as Associate Commissioner. Second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Adjournment

Emilie Wilder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.