



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 21, 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)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

17 Woodrow Street, continued NOI, 190-0644

David Mercer moved to continue the hearing to June 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

23 Lakeshore Ave, RDA

Present: Roberto da Costa

The applicant proposes to access the back of his property by removing a portion of a large berm which abuts a dirt road. On the other side of the dirt road is a drop down to wetlands and Fort Meadow Brook. Two small pines would need to be cut. The berm is in Outer Riverfront Area and Buffer Zone. The rest of the property is outside of jurisdiction. The applicant has put loose asphalt on the dirt road leading to the back of his house.

Emilie Wilder expressed concern about disturbance cause by removing the asphalt. David Mercer asked where the excavated soil would go. The applicant said it would be removed from the site. Brandon Parker asked about restoration of the berm when the work is complete. Debbi Edelstein asked if the berm would be rebuilt. Emilie Wilder suggested that smaller equipment such as a mini excavator could be used that could enter from the front of the house. A site visit was scheduled for Tuesday May 26 at 5:00. David Mercer moved to continue the hearing to June 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

10 Lakeside Ave, NOI, 190-06xx

Emilie Wilder moved to continue the hearing to June 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM. Second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

2 Chestnut Street, NOI, 190-06xx

Present: David Therrien (consultant)

Documents:

- Proposed Site Plan Located at 2 Chestnut Street; prepared by Blackston Valley Mapping and Consulting; dated 5/9/2020; signed and stamped by Christopher C. Charlton, PLS 348649, scale 1"=30'
- Notice of Intent for 2 Chestnut Street, Hudson, MA May 13,2020

The property owners started work without a permit on a site that spans Hudson and Stow. The property is entirely in Riverfront Area and contains Bordering Vegetated Wetlands and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Fill has been brought into the floodplain and sediment has eroded down to the edge of the BVW. A double line of silt fence and straw wattles have been installed along the wetland edge and work has ceased.

The applicant proposes to restore the floodplain to original soil and restore the edge of the BVW and the first 25 feet of Buffer Zone with plantings. Moving forward the applicant proposes to repair an old barn/garage and construct a paved driveway as well as construct a deck in the Hudson portion of the property.

Debbi Edelstein asked about original vegetation near the wetland. David Therrien said it was probably grass and scrub-shrub. Heidi Graf asked how the floodplain would affect the deck or driveway. David Therrien said they were outside of the 100-year floodplain. David Mercer asked if there would be excavation to construct the driveway. David Therrien said just grading and paving would be necessary. Debbi Edelstein asked if the deck would be raised on pilings with no patio beneath. David Therrien confirmed that was the case. James Martin requested a planting plan and maintenance plan for the 25-foot restoration area. David Therrien asked for some guidance from the Commission.

The Commissioners agreed they should see the property before the next meeting. The wetlands are flagged and the Town line is staked. Emilie Wilder requested that the 25-foot restoration area be staked and James Martin asked that the location of the deck be indicated. Emilie Wilder moved to continue the hearing to June 4, 2020 at 7:00 PM, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Danforth Conservation Land, NOI, 190-0646

Present: Brandon Parker, Conservation Commission and Hudson Land Trust; Gregory Opp, Hudson Land Trust; Charlotte Zembko-Johnson, abutter

Documents:

- Notice of Intent Narrative – Danforth Falls Conservation Land Trail Improvements

The applicant is the Conservation Commission working with the Hudson Land Trust. The proposal is for trail maintenance and improvements in Danforth Falls Conservation Land along

the Lancaster Rail Trail, and includes some swales to redirect water from the trail and short boardwalks over the swales and muddy areas. The trails have been heavily used and are damaged. Walkers are avoiding muddy areas and damaging the surrounding wooded areas.

David Mercer asked about the risk of wash outs from the swales. Brandon Parker said the water was from seepage with no significant flow. Heidi Graf asked about portions of the trail in flood plain. Brandon Parker said that the work proposed in this NOI was outside of floodplain.

Abutter Charlotte Zembko-Johnson asked about work in the area of the upper falls. Brandon Parker said that work was more complex and would require a second NOI.

Emilie Wilder moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions, second by David Mercer, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Administrative Business

Extension Request – Lake Boon Herbicide Treatment, 190-0362

Present: Dan Barstow, Lake Boon Commission

The permit has been in effect since 2001 and the work has been effective in controlling invasive weeds in Lake Boon. The applicant requests a 3-year extension. Emilie Wilder asked what species of bladderwort was found in the lake because one is state listed. She also asked for details about the herbicides being used, how long they are active, and their impact on other vegetation. Dan Barstow will get answers from Solitude Lake Management. Heidi Graf moved to continue the discussion to June 4, 2020 at 7:00PM. Second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

MVP Grant for Lake Boon Health Assessment

Present: Dan Barstow, Lake Boon Commission

Dan Barstow described a comprehensive study utilizing citizen scientists in Stow and Hudson to determine the causes of deteriorating conditions in Lake Boon. Brandon Parker expressed concerns about the applicants for the consultant position having a conflict of interest if their services might be impacted by the results of the study. Emilie Wilder asked to see the RFP before it went out and the Commission expressed interest in participating in the consultant selection process. Debbi Edelstein moved to issue a letter of support for the project, second by Brandon Parker, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Minutes – Emilie Wilder moved to approve the minutes from May 14, 2020. Second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

Appraisal for Elk's property - The land behind the Elks lodge at 91 Park Street will be going up for sale. This land provides a critical link between other Town land along the Assabet River. The Recreation Division has asked the Conservation Commission to split the cost of an appraisal of the parcel. Brandon Parker moved to spend up to \$2500 on an appraisal, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

31 Wilkins Street Access Road

M&M Heating at 31 Wilkins Street own a portion of old rail line that wraps behind several houses and provides a secondary access from Wilkins Street. They have created disturbance along this dirt road which abuts a wetland. Pam Helinek contacted the owner and he installed straw wattle and offered to take whatever steps the Commission requested to stabilize the road and protect the wetlands. The owner said they had been using the road mainly to haul out trash that had been dumped there over the years.

Brandon Parker said that the wattles had not been installed properly so weren't effective. He asked how frequently the road would be used and for what purposes. Pam Helinek will contact the owner about embedding and staking the wattles and find out their plans for usage of the road.

Adjournment

Emilie Wilder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Brandon Parker, vote 6-0-0 by roll call. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 PM.