



## 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*

*Paul Osborne*

### Meeting Minutes June 18, 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 Osborne, Joseph Mullin (Assoc), Brooke Warrington (Assoc)**

**Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)**

### **Public Hearings**

**2 Chestnut Street, continued NOI, 190-0649**

**Present: David Therrien**

#### **Documents:**

- Proposed Site Plan Located at 2 Chestnut Street; prepared by Blackstone Valley Mapping and Consulting; dated 5/9/2020; revised 6/9/2020 signed and stamped by Christopher C. Charlton, PLS 348649, scale 1"=30'
- Work Description for 2 Chestnut Street, Hudson, MA; revised June 10, 2020

The applicant has updated the plans with floodplain and proposes to excavate soil from the floodplain down to what seems to be the original soils, remove fill from the 25-foot No Disturb Zone and wetland edge, and seed with a conservation mix. Emilie Wilder asked if the fill that was removed would be stockpiled in the Stow side of the property since it was being used to construct a cesspool on the Stow side. David Therrien said there had not been a plan but that he would agree to a condition that stockpiling be in Stow. Emilie Wilder asked if the trees marked for removal would be replaced. David Therrien said they were mostly dead and there were no plans to plant more trees. Restoration will be with a New England seed mix. Emilie Wilder asked to see the specification for the seed mix and asked if it would be mowed or left to grow naturally. The 25-foot No Disturb Zone will not be mowed.

Emilie Wilder noted that equipment has damaged some trees and asked if the large snag in the wetland would be left in place. David Therrien said the property owner would like to remove it. Emilie Wilder said the tree is not a hazard to the house and provides habitat and that she would rather it was left in place. She also said that sedimentation has entered the edge of the wetland, and that the wetland restoration area warrants a different planting plan. Wetland shrubs at the edge of the wetland would create a protective buffer.

James Martin asked about invasive vegetation. David Therrien said he hadn't observed many invasives. Paul Osborne asked how much material would be removed from the 25-foot No Disturb Zone. David Therrien estimates about a foot of fill, more than a truckload to remove.

Brandon Parker asked who did the original grading. The property owners are contractors and their own people did the work. Brandon Parker said that they did not do a good job. He also asked to see the math on the floodplain compensation and said it was wrong on the Stow plan.

Debbi Edelstein expressed concern over disturbance cause by removal of the fill and asked who would be doing the work. David Therrien said the property owner planned to have their own people do the work. Debbi Edelstein said that they would be working in the wetlands and that knowledgeable people should do the work. Emilie Wilder agreed and noted the damage done to trees in the initial work. Heidi Graf requested that a wetland scientist oversee the work and noted that otherwise the repair work could make the situation worse. She also said that she preferred the large snag in the wetlands remain in place. Debbi Edelstein said that the seed mix used should be pesticide-free.

David Therrien said that he is a civil engineer but not a wetland scientist and agreed that the property owner would hire a wetland scientist to make a planting plan and oversee the work in wetland jurisdictional areas.

James Martin said that a seed mix was insufficient and that the plan should include shrubs and other plantings. Emilie Wilder agreed that plugs, small shrubs and/or perennials should be planted in addition to the seed mix.

Emilie Wilder moved to continue the hearing to July 2, 2020 at 7:00. Second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0 by roll call. Brandon Parker said that the applicant should have a wetland scientist prepare an initial planting plan for the next meeting.

#### **South Street Riverwalk, NOI, 190-06xx**

David Mercer moved to continue the hearing to July 2, 2020 at 7:00 PM, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 7-0-0 by roll call. A site walk was scheduled for Monday June 29 at 5PM.

#### **49 Houghton Street, NOI, 190-0648**

**Present: Chris Ianuzzi (EBI Consulting), Conrad Watson (property owner)**

#### **Documents:**

- Notice of Intent Narrative: Proposed Multi-family Redevelopment, 49 & 50 Houghton Street, Hudson, Massachusetts; prepared by EBI Consulting; dated May 2020

- Existing Conditions: 46-48 Houghton Street, Hudson, MA; prepared by Grady Consulting, LLC; dated 4/24/20; scale 1"=20'
- Site Plans for Proposed Multi-Family Redevelopment, 49 Houghton Street, Hudson, MA; dated 5/21/20; prepared by EBI Consulting; scale 1"=30'
- Stormwater Management Report: 49 Houghton Street, Hudson, MA; dated 4/21/20; revised 5/19/20; prepared by EBI Consulting

The applicant proposes to convert an existing commercial complex into apartments and improve an existing parking lot across the street. The existing building abuts the Assabet River including a wall which forms the bank of a stretch of the river. The parking lot also directly abuts the river. There are plans for underground stormwater BMPs and a rain garden. Storm water is currently discharged directly to the Assabet River. There will be an 18% increase in pervious, landscaped area. Chris Ianuzzi stated that the plans were not yet finalized.

David Mercer asked about snow management. There have been areas identified for snow storage but in a large storm snow will have to be removed from the site. Emilie Wilder said that snow could not be pushed against the fence near the river. Brandon Parker said that the Commission would mandate signs to be posted.

Brandon Parker suggested giving the Town a Right of Way for a walkway. Chris Ianuzzi said it could be discussed. Brandon Parker asked how the river would be protected during construction. Chris Ianuzzi did not have a detailed answer. Emilie Wilder expressed concern about construction debris blowing into the river and suggested fabric be installed to catch debris. Debbi Edelstein suggested a boom in the river. Chris Ianuzzi agreed those things made sense. David Mercer said there would have to be a maintenance plan to handle trash against the fence, the removal of demolition materials, and soils from excavation.

Emilie Wilder asked if the public walkway at the parking area which is currently closed due to a collapsed section would be rehabilitated. There are no current plans to do so.

James Martin said that there would need to be a maintenance plan for the deep sumps and other storm water BMPs. Chris Ianuzzi said that was covered in the Stormwater Management Report. Emilie Wilder asked if the applicant had addressed all the DEP comments about stormwater management. DEP pointed out inconsistencies in the report and missing information. Chris Ianuzzi said he had not looked closely at the comments yet.

Emilie Wilder moved to continue the hearing to July 2, 2020. Second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0 by roll call. Required by the Commission: Finalized plans, Erosion and Debris Control Plans for construction, responses to DEP comments, Planning Board decision.

#### **Woodrow Street, continued NOI, 190-0644**

David Mercer moved to continue the hearing to July 16, 2020 at 7:00, second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

### **Administrative Business**

**Minutes** – Emilie Wilder moved to approve the minutes from June 4, 2020. Second by Heidi Graf, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

### **COC Request – 27 Worcestor Ave, 190-0639**

Pam Helinek performed a site inspection and recommended issuing the COC. Heidi Graf moved to issue the COC, second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0

### **Extension Request – Lake Boon Herbicide Treatment, 190-0362**

**Present: Dan Barstow (Lake Boon Commission), Kris Krablin (Lake Boon Commission), Kara Sliwoski (Solitude Lake Management)**

Emilie Wilder expressed concerns about herbicide treatments in areas of the lake that showed low traces of invasive growth. She has concerns that the decrease in vegetation due to herbicides may contribute to the excess nutrients in the lake and result in algae blooms. She is also concerned about the impacts on native vegetation.

Kara Sliwoski said that the herbicides used are targeted and should not hurt native plants, and that algae blooms are a problem even in untreated lakes. She said that if the treatment was not done, the invasives would proliferate and larger quantities of herbicide would be required.

Emilie Wilder asked about the impact on edge plants. Kara Sliwoski said that the herbicides in use did not affect pickerel weed or cattails. Emilie Wilder said that the diquat spec said it killed cattails. Kara Sliwoski will investigate.

Pam Helinek said that currently the OOC was identical to Stow's and that if the Commission wanted to change the OOC they should coordinate with Stow so that there weren't inconsistencies within the lake.

Special Condition #9 in the OOC states that each year's herbicide treatment shall not be applied without permission from the Commission. This year's treatment was already applied without requesting permission. The applicants apologized and agreed to get permission in future years. SC#9 also allows the Commission to alter the OOC in a posted public hearing.

Dan Barstow said the MVP grant that he has applied for would enable a better understanding of the impacts of herbicide along with many other factors on the health of Lake Boon and would help with the development of a more holistic approach to treatment of the lake. Kara Sliwoski said that Solitude could work with both Commissions over the winter or early spring to review the results of the previous summer and develop a plan for the next season.

Brandon Parker moved to extend the OOC for one year, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-1 by roll call:

Yes: David Mercer, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein  
Abstention: Paul Osborne

**Adjournment**

Brandon Parker moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 7-0-0.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 PM.