



## 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 August 20, 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, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein, Paul Osborne, Joseph Mullin (Assoc), Brooke Warrington (Assoc)**

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

### **Public Hearings**

**50 School Street, RDA**

**Present: Michael Chaves**

The applicant would like to replace a shed on the banks of the Assabet River that was destroyed when a large tree fell on it. The shed will be rebuilt on the existing concrete foundation. All work will be done by hand and all materials will be hand carried in and out. David Mercer moved to issue a negative Determination, second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call.

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

**Present: Arthur Redding, Steve Poole (Lakeview Engineering Associates)**

David Mercer moved to issue the Order of Conditions, second by Debbie Edelstein, vote 5-0-1 by roll call.

In favor: David Mercer, Brandon Parker, Heidi Graf, Debbie Edelstein, James Martin

Abstention: Paul Osborne

Special Conditions: OOC to be recorded on all three properties (17 Woodrow, 15 Woodrow, 439 Main Street); 3-year monitoring period for replication area, commission to approve invasive species control other than hand pulling; existing native trees in the replication area to be saved where possible; no additional fill in any wetland area on all three properties in perpetuity

**MBTA ROW/Central Mass Line Railroad, continued NOI, 190-0647**

**Present:** Michael Hager (Eversource), Katie Kinsella, Gene Crouch (VHB); Marc Bergeron (Epsilon Associates); Bary Fogel (Keegan Werlin); Paul McKinlay(WSE);

The applicant has reviewed the draft OOC and requested several changes. A question had come up as to whether the newer planting plan for the Riverfront Area near the Fort Meadow Brook bridge was preferable to the original planting plan. The original plan had 100 small trees and 60 shrubs. The new plan has 19 larger trees and 122 shrubs. Katie Kinsella had replied that the current plan provides denser vegetation, will substantially restore the area, and will provide immediate habitat value. The Commission decided to keep the current plan. The applicant was concerned with the requirement of a structural engineer certifying the condition of the culverts. The Commission agreed to require a written report rather than a certification. The applicant was concerned with the requirement to notify the Commission of the source of the seed mix prior to purchase, in case they needed to order with expediency. The Commission agreed to add the words "if practicable". There was discussion about the Commission's ability to inspect dewatering setups. The Commission and applicant agreed that the inspection would take place within 24 hours of notification. There was discussion about demarcating areas near vernal pools where maintenance crews would not be allowed to blow debris. The Commission agreed to change the requirement for signs or markings clearly visible from the path, to an appropriate method to be approved before the COC is issued.

David Mercer moved to issue an Order of Conditions that incorporated the changes from the preceding discussion. Second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 4-0-2

In favor: David Mercer, Brandon Parker, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein

Abstentions: Heidi Graf, Paul Osborne

Note: Paul Osborne abstained because he was an Associate Commissioner at the first hearing and it was unclear whether that made him ineligible to vote. He stated that if eligible he would vote in favor.

**23 Lakeshore Drive, NOI, 190-0651**

**Present: David Crossman, B&C Associates**

The Commission discussed erosion control requirements for the project. Sediments would likely run down the road through an existing swale rather than to the wetlands. The applicant has determined that the paper road is owned by the abutters on either side, split at the center line. The Commission would like wattles to go across the road and asked the applicant to get permission from the abutter on the other half of the road. The Commission also asked for an updated plan showing the details of erosion control placement. Brandon Parker stated that no work should be done when it is raining.

James Martin moved to continue the hearing to September 3, 2020 at 7:00PM. Second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 6-0-0.

**1 Lilac Drive, RDA**

**Present: Wayne Belec, Land Design Consultants**

**Documents:**

- Sewage Disposal System Repair; prepared by Land Design Collaborative; dated 8/6/2020; revised 8/14/2020; signed and stamped by Michael J. Scott, PE#40863; scale 1"=30'

The applicant previously received a negative determination to connect to Town Sewer by excavating through an existing cart road. However, he would like to instead install a new septic system. The new system will be a Presby system, conforms to Title 5 and will be greater than 50 feet from the wetland line. Construction vehicles will enter the yard via the dirt road, up a fairly steep grade. Based on a site visit with Pam Helinek, the applicant has submitted a revised plan showing more erosion controls, wood chips placement to prevent erosion on the steep access area, and restoration of the access area with a native seed mix after construction is complete.

David Mercer moved to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability, second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0

### **156 Manning Street, NOI, 190-06xx**

**Present: Tom Curley; Brandon Ducharme, Dan Wolfe (Ross Associates)**

#### **Documents:**

- Notice of Intent: Construction of a Proposed Addition to a Single-Family Dwelling located at 156 Manning Street, Hudson, MA; prepared by David E. Ross Associates; dated August 2020
- Site Plan: 156 Mainning Street, Hudson, MA; prepared by David E. Ross Associates; dated June 2020; signed and stamped by Daniel B. Wolfe, PE# 36523; scale 1"=10'

The applicant proposed an addition to a single family house in Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands, and Bordering Land Subject to Flooding. Some work is proposed in Inner Riverfront Area, but it is on existing lawn with no habitat value. About half of the addition is in the floodplain. Compensatory flood storage will be provided. The applicant has agreed to remove a large clump of knotweed during construction. Paul Osborne moved to continue the hearing to September 3, 2020 to wait for the DEP file number and comments. Second by Heidi Graf, vote 6-0-0

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

The applicant has withdrawn his application from both the Planning Board and Conservation Commission.

### **South Street Riverwalk, NOI, 190-0650**

**Present: Pam Helinek, Town of Hudson**

James Martin moved to issue the Order of Conditions, second by Brandon Parker, vote 4-0-2

In favor: Brandon Parker, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein, Paul Osborne

Abstentions: David Mercer, Heidi Graf

Special Conditions: revised plans must be submitted with the seed mix identified, the Town is responsible for maintenance or replacement of erosion control between phases, educational signage to be approved in advance by the Commission, plan for any tree cutting to be approved in advance by Commission, Commission to be notified in advance if herbicide is to be used, the

Town or its agent or designee to be responsible for managing the regrowth of invasive species along the corridor in perpetuity

### **Administrative Business**

**Request for COC – 37 Coolidge Street, 190-0564**

**Present: Michael Drayer**

**Documents:**

- As Built Plan of Land, 37 Coolidge Street, Hudson, MA; prepared by Alfred M. Berry; signed and stamped by Alfred M. Berry, PLS# 36857; dated 8/14/2020; scale 1"=10'
- Letter Re: Native Sun, 37 Coolidge Street, Hudson, MA, As-build Plan; prepared by Markey and Rubin, Inc; dated 8/14/2020

The project is in compliance except that a 3' x 55' seeded landscape island was replaced by paving. James Martin asked whether this area was part of the storm water design and whether current storm water management would be sufficient. Michael Drayer said he thought the existing catch basin was sufficient. Brandon Parker asked whether this new impervious area was included in the stormwater calculations. Paul Osborne stated that the storm water calculations would need to be redone and that new storm water features might have to be added. The discussion was continued to allow the applicant to submit new stormwater calculations and design new storm water features if necessary.

**Minutes** – David Mercer moved to approve the minutes from 8/5/2020 and 8/6/2020, second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0 by roll call

### **Adjournment**

James Martin moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Heidi Graf, vote 6-0-0 by roll call. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.