



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 November 5, 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, Emilie Wilder, Brandon Parker, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein, Paul Osborne, Brooke Warrington (Assoc)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

31 Park Street, RDA

Present: Samantha Quoos

Documents:

- 31 Park Street Plant List

The applicant would like to remove a large stand of unhealthy Norway Maples along the bank of the Assabet River. The property slopes steeply down to the river and the trees are at the top as well as midway down the slope. The applicant also proposes to remove weedy invasive vegetation from this area and plant native vegetation. The Commission had a site visit on October 20.

David Mercer said that the roots would need to be left in place when the trees were cut. Heidi Graf asked if erosion control should be used when the invasive vegetation was being dug out and new plantings installed. Samantha Quoos said that all work would be done by hand and disturbance should be minimal. David Mercer moved to issue a negative Determination, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0 by roll call. Special Conditions: tree roots to be left in place, plantings to be inspected by Conservation Agent when complete

Lake Boon Drawdown, NOI, 190-0654

Present: Kris Krablin, David Gray

Pam Helinek worked with Stow Conservation Agent Kathy Sferra to write joint Special Conditions. Heidi Graf noted the word "Commission" in Findings of Fact #1 should be plural.

Brandon Parker commented that if the MVP study determines a deeper drawdown might be beneficial, it would be possible to amend the OOC in the future to use siphoning to remove more water. Brandon Parker moved to close the hearing, approve the Special Conditions and issue the OOC, second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

10 Herman Circle, NOI, 190-06xx

Emilie Wilder moved to continue the hearing to November 19, 2020 at 7:00. Second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

200 Cox Street (Manzo Way) Lot 4, RDA

Present: Patrick Manzo

The applicant proposes to mow weedy vegetation from an empty house lot in the Buffer Zone, stopping at the 25 foot No Disturb line, in order to access the lot for survey and design purposes. No digging or soil disturbance shall occur. David Mercer moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Brandon Parker, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

Administrative Business

Eagle Scout Project, Kiosks for Danforth Falls Conservation Land

Present: Jaxon Capobianco

Jaxon Capobianco explained his plan to construct and install kiosks at the trail entrances to Danforth Falls Conservation Land, one at the main parking lot and a second at the Farley School entrance. Brandon Parker asked if he has made progress looking for donations or sponsors. Jaxon Capobianco said he is researching this and that Lowes gives \$100 gift cards for eagle scout projects. Brandon Parker said that he had reviewed the construction cost list and thought that a power auger would not work well in the soils by the conservation land, and that rental costs could be saved by hand digging the holes. Paul Osborne asked if the footings were heavy enough to prevent the kiosks from blowing over. Brandon Parker said the roof would not be heavy and that the 3-4 feet depth planned by Jaxon should be sufficient. Pam Helinek mentioned that Jaxon would need permission from the school administration to install the kiosk at Farley School.

COC Request, 290 Chestnut Street, 190-0253

Present: Bill Lyons

The OOC was issued in 1994 for the subdivision and never closed. Pam Helinek has done an inspection of the property and it appears to be in compliance. The wetlands have not been disturbed. Bill Lyons is an attorney and civil engineer and certified that the house appears to be in substantial compliance with the approved plans. David Mercer moved to issue a partial Certificate of Compliance for 290 Chestnut Street only. Second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

Nature Trail Bridges

Brandon Parker, Pam Helinek, Josh Aponte from the Recreation Division and Greg Opp inspected the three bridges along the Nature Trail running along the Assabet River from Chapin Road, behind the high school. Two of the bridges need repairs, and the third, which crosses a wet area in floodplain, should be replaced. The Commission agreed that an RDA would be appropriate for this work.

Minutes – Emilie Wilder moved to approve the minutes from October 15, 2020, second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0 by roll call

Adjournment

Emilie Wilder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Heidi Graf, vote 7-0-0 by roll call. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.