



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 December 17, 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

Stow Court, RDA

Present: Adam Hopkins, Hudson Light & Power

The applicant proposes to empty, clean and demolish an 840,000 gallon fuel storage tank and remove it from the site. Fuel lines will be cleaned and capped. The tank is about 200 feet from the Assabet River, within a 20-30 foot deep depression. Brandon Parker confirmed that only the fuel tank, and not the pipes crossing the river, would be removed under this RDA. Brandon Parker moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

Chapin Road Nature Trail, RDA

Present: Steven Santos, Division of Recreation

The applicant proposes to construct a boardwalk over a muddy area along the Chapin Road Nature Trail. In addition, the applicant would like permission to shift part of the trail away from the river, in order to cut out a portion of an old stone wall that cuts across the trail. The section of wall crossing the current trail has the names of the people who built the wall, and the applicant would like to preserve this section and maybe add a commemorative plaque. The applicant also requests after-the-fact permission for extending the boardwalk permitted under a previous RDA.

Debbi Edelstein asked if the piece of wall with the carved names could be moved. Steven Santos said it would probably crumble. Heidi Graf asked if tree removals would be necessary to move

the trail. Brandon Parker said possibly one small tree would need to be cut. James Martin moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Heidi Graf, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

Wheeler Road Conservation Restriction, RDA

Present: George Cayer, Cheryl Davenport, Brandon Parker

The Conservation Commission holds the CR for this property. A trail from Wheeler Road to the Westridge Condominiums crosses a small stream. Currently crossing the stream requires walking through it or walking on slippery rocks. Brandon Parker proposed building a 12-14 foot long bridge, 4 feet wide, across the stream. The only disturbance would be some leveling of the area a few feet away from the stream banks in both directions, to provide level support for the bridge. James Martin moved to issue a Negative Determination, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 7-0-0.

144 Parmenter Road, RDA

The applicant is a contractor working for Precision Coating on Parmenter Road in Hudson. Precision Coating has hired him to connect houses on Parmenter Road to Town water supplies since Precision Coating is considered responsible for contaminating their wells. 144 Parmenter Road has a stream on the property. Heidi Graf identified it as Cranberry Brook, a perennial stream in StreamStats. The property owner wants the water pipe installed along the side of the driveway about 100 feet from the stream. This would require cutting a number of small and medium trees, many of which are dead or unhealthy. Pam Helinek had thought the work could be expedited under an RDA, since it was public health related and the disturbance was fairly minimal and a good distance from the stream, on the other side of the driveway. She had expected the applicant to attend the meeting, but he was unable to be there. Emilie Wilder said she had observed a large stand of knotweed on the property and was concerned that removing the trees without planting new vegetation would result in knotweed taking over the area.

Paul Osborne moved to continue the hearing to January 7, 2021 at 7:00PM, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0 by roll call. Pam Helinek will contact the property owner and tell him he is required to attend the meeting.

10 Herman Circle, continued NOI, 190-0655

Present: Russ Waldron

Documents:

- Conservation Plan for land in Hudson, Massachusetts; prepared by Dunn-McKenzie, Inc; dated 5/1/2020; revised 12/15/2020; signed and stamped Kenneth G. McKenzie, Jr., PLS#34099; scale 1"=20'

The applicant has submitted revised plans, showing details of the planned changes to the driveway and pool area, plans and plant lists for Riverfront and BVW restoration as well as additional plantings, final grades, and the rain garden/compensatory flood storage area. Debbi Edelstein reminded the applicant that DEP had said there could be no expansion of the original lawn area. Russ Waldron said he had made that very clear to the property owner. Brandon Parker asked that a note be placed on the final plans requiring that the lawn will not be expanded and to have it be a condition in perpetuity. Brandon Parker also required a condition that all restoration work be completed and approved before any other changes are implemented. Emilie

Wilder moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions contingent upon receiving the revised plans, second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

34 Tower Street, NOI, 190-0656

Present: JoePeznola, David Cowell, Hancock Associates

Documents:

- Permit Site Plan, 34 Tower Street Apartments; prepared by Hancock Associates; dated 5/3/19; revised 12/8/20; signed and stamped by Joseph Peznola, PE# 38117; scale 1"=30'
- Letter Re:34 Tower Street Apartments – Notice of Intent – Response to Comments; prepared by Hancock Associates; dated 12/10/2020
- Landscape Maintenance Plan, 34 Tower Street, Hudson, MA; prepared by James K. Emmanuel Associates
- Email Re:34 Tower Street Mass DEP Comments; prepared by Joseph D. Peznola, Hancock Associates; dated 12/16/2020

The applicant submitted revised plans showing snow storage areas, signage for “No Dumping of Snow per Order of the Hudson Conservation Commission” at 50-foot intervals along the Buffer Zone, and details of the restoration and meadow areas, and removing the reference to walking trails. David Cowell said he would send details of the native seed mix to be used. Emilie Wilder asked about a note on the plan about trees being relocated. Joe Peznola explained that meant proposed trees required by the Planning Board. Emilie Wilder noted that although the planting list had been updated, there were still non-natives on the list. David Cowell said those were probably not in wetland jurisdictional areas. Pam Helinek suggested that a planting list be submitted for jurisdictional areas only.

Emilie Wilder asked if a wildflower mix could be incorporated in the meadow area. David Cowell agreed this was a good idea and suggested the “New England Showy Wildflower Mix”. Dave Mercer asked about the mowing plan for the meadow area. Joe Peznola said the landscape management plan specified “as necessary” but he didn’t expect it to be necessary except for culling invasives and tree growth.

Paul Osborne asked about trash storage. Joe Peznola said a trash compactor and recycle containers will be in one fenced-in area for all residents and that management staff would be on-site 7 days a week and would be sure that it was properly maintained. David Cowell discussed DEP comments about the detention basin and MEPA threshold and said that they would not apply to redevelopment projects.

James Martin moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions. Second by Emilie Wilder, note 7-0-0 by roll call. Special Conditions: (1) Construction sequence and SWPP to be submitted to the Commission after the selection of a contractor; (2) Meadow to be mowed no more than once a year; (3) Final planting plan in jurisdictional areas to be approved by the Commission

Administrative Business

Extension Request – DPW Maintenance OOC, 190-0520

Present: Max Kamel, DPW Asst Director

This OOC is used by DPW for emergency repairs and routine maintenance in and around streams and other wetland jurisdictional areas. Heidi Graf noted the condition that a list of planned projects be submitted every January. Max Kamel said that there were no planned projects, work was done as needed. Dave Mercer said that a large, planned project would require a separate permit. Brandon Parker moved to issue an Extension Order for three years, second by Heidi Graf, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

Minutes – David Mercer moved to approve the minutes from December 3, 2020, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 7-0-0 by roll call

COC Request – 111 Brigham Street, Partial COC for Unit 4F, 190-0220/0222

This property is part of a condominium complex and is not in any wetland jurisdictional area. Emilie Wilder moved to issue a Partial COC, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0 by roll call.

Adjournment

Emilie Wilder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Debbi Edelstein, vote 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.