



## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

78 Main Street, Hudson, MA 01749  
(978) 562-2948

*Paul Byrne, Chairman*

*Joseph Rodrigues*

*Marianne Iarossi*

*David Mercer*

*Emilie Schuler*

*Brandon Parker*

*Jason Weksner*

### **Meeting Minutes August 31, 2017**

**Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by vice-chair David Mercer**

**Roll Call: David Mercer, Joe Rodrigues, Marianne Iarossi, Emilie Schuler, Brandon Parker, Jason Weksner**

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

### **Public Hearings**

**56 School Street, RDA**

**Present: Silvino Cabral**

The applicant proposed to replace a deck that was previously on the back of his house, just within the 200-foot Riverfront Area of the Assabet River. The deck will be about 10 feet deep, in the footprint of the previous deck, and will require four sonotubes to be installed for support. The applicant also wants to clear weedy and invasive vegetation behind his house in the fenced in area that was previously lawn and beyond for a total of 50-60 feet. David Mercer moved to issue a negative determination for construction of the deck and for clearing of vegetation up to 50 feet from the foundation of the house. Any clearing beyond 50 feet will require a new filing with the Commission. Second by Marianne Iarossi, vote 6-0-0.

### **Administrative Business**

**Violation – 8 Lamson Ave**

Pam Helinek reported that the property owner at 8 Lamson Ave asked for approval to remove an old bulkhead and install a new one in the Buffer Zone to Bruce's Pond. The yard is small with a very steep drop down to the pond. The agent informed the property owner that she would need to file an RDA with the Commission to be in compliance with the state Wetlands Protection Act, but the property owner said the work was scheduled to be done that week and that she would not reschedule it. The Commission discussed whether it was more appropriate to require an after-the-fact RDA or NOI. Joe Rodrigues moved to issue a Notice of Violation and Enforcement order to the property owner, requiring her to come the September 14 meeting to discuss the violation and its remediation. Second by David Mercer, vote 6-0-0. In addition, Pam Helinek will check whether a building permit was required for the work.

**Request for Plan Change – Highland Commons, 190-0481**

Benderson Development has requested that the Commission approve a plan change accepting \$142,231.80 in lieu of wetlands restoration work required by the approved plans. Brandon Parker expressed concerns about the validity of the estimated costs submitted by Benderson and suggested the Commission hire a consultant to review them. The Commission decided to review the estimates in more detail and table the discussion until the next meeting.

**Minutes** – David Mercer moved to accept the minutes from August 17, 2017. Second by Brandon Parker, vote 4-0-2.

**Discussion – Wetland Protection Bylaw** – tabled until next meeting

**Discussion – OARS contribution request**

OARS has requested a \$2000 contribution from Hudson to support their work monitoring the Assabet River. Brandon Parker said that OARS does good work in Hudson and for the rivers in general and the Commission agreed that they appreciate the work that OARS does. David Mercer moved to allocate \$2000 from the Conservation Fund to help cover OARS expenses in Hudson. Second by Emilie Schuler, vote 6-0-0.

**Discussion – OARS canoe launch signs**

OARS would like to install canoe launch signs near the road at 2-4 points in Hudson where canoes can be launched on the Assabet. The Commission granted administrative approval to install the signs.

**Adjournment**

Marianne Iarossi moved to adjourn the meeting. Second by Joe Rodrigues, vote 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM.