



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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

David Mercer, Chair

Emilie Wilder, Vice Chair

Brandon Parker

Jason Weksner

Heidi Graf

James Martin

Debbi Edelstein

Meeting Minutes February 20, 2020

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

Roll Call: David Mercer, Brandon Parker, Emilie Wilder, Jason Weksner, Heidi Graf, James Martin, Debbi Edelstein (arrived 7:35), Joseph Mullin (Asst Commissioner), Frank Caserta (Asst Commissioner)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

Centennial Beach, RDA

Present: Steven Santos, Hudson Recreation Director

The applicant proposes to build a stone wall along the property line between Centennial Beach and its abutter. Heidi Graf requested that they stay out of the wetland area near the shoreline so that the work is all in buffer zone and exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act. Jason Weksner asked if plywood would be used to minimize ground disturbance. Steven Santos said they had not planned to do that. Emilie Wilder suggested that the work be done in the winter when the ground was frozen. James Martin asked if any vegetation will be cut. It will not. Emilie Wilder moved to issue a negative determination with the condition that no work is done in the wetland, second by James Martin, vote 6-0-0.

2 Silver Oak Road (Lot 10), NOI 190-0642

Documents:

- Proposed Site Plan: Lot 10 Silver Oak Road; prepared by Thomas DiPersio Jr. & Associates, Inc; dated 1/5/20, revised 2/14/20; signed and stamped by Thomas P. DiPersio, Jr. PE# 40077, PLS# 54259; scale 1"=30'

The applicant has submitted a revised plan showing silt fence behind the straw wattles as requested by DEP, and mitigation plantings of 6 shrubs and 1 oak tree. Emilie Wilder said that 18 shrubs would be more appropriate for the space. Jason Weksner said that shrubs should be at least 1 gallon and the tree should be 2-2 ½ inch caliber. David Mercer moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-0. Special Condition: final mitigation planting plan to be approved by the Commission

49 Hunter Ave, NOI, 190-06xx

Present: Michele and John Lehan, Steve Smith

Documents:

- Lehan Residence – 49 Hunter Ave, Hudson

The applicant proposes to remove a crumbling cement retaining wall along the shoreline of Lake Boon and replace it with natural boulders. Dave Mercer said the work should be done while the lake is drawn down. Brandon Parker asked if a beach area were being created. Steve Smith said it was not and that some native plants would be added. Jason Weksner asked if any digging would be involved. It will not – the stones will just be set in place. Landscape fabric will stabilize the area behind the wall and sandy fill will be added for the plants. Heidi Graf asked about erosion control. In addition to wattles and silt fence, a turbidity dam will be installed. David Mercer moved to continue the hearing to March 5, 2020 at 7:00 to wait for DEP number and comments, second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-0. Special Condition: erosion controls must be installed as shown on plan.

MBTA ROW/Central Mass Line Railroad, continued NOI, 190-06xx

David Mercer moved to continue to March 5, 2020 at 7:00 to allow the Commission's peer reviewer time to complete his review. Second by Emilie Wilder, vote 6-0-0.

Administrative Business

Minutes: Emilie Wilder moved to approve the minutes from February 6, 2020. Second by Brandon Parker, vote 6-0-0

COC request – 277 Chestnut Street, 190-0542

The OOC was issued 10 years ago and there is no as-built plan. Pam Helinek inspected the property and saw that some of the work was never done, but that the work that has been done is in compliance with the approved plan. David Mercer moved to issue the COC, second by Heidi Graf, vote 6-0-0.

Discussion – Generic Trail NOI

Present: Greg Opp, Hudson Land Trust; Steven Santos, Hudson Recreation Division

The Commission discussed the language for a generic trailwork and invasives removal NOI and agreed that Pam Helinek should update the draft and submit it to DEP.

Discussion – Fossile CR survey

Present: Greg Opp, Hudson Land Trust; Steven Santos, Hudson Recreation Division

The Fossile property is a CPA-purchased CR owned part by Conservation and part by Recreation, and held by the Hudson Land Trust. The Hudson Land Trust has become aware of abutter encroachment on the property and would like to get the area of land near the encroachment surveyed and marked. The Land Trust is asking the Conservation Commission and Recreation Division to help pay for the survey. Steven Santos asked whether it made sense to survey the entire parcel at this time to take advantage of potential cost saving. Greg Opp will get a quote from Hancock Associates for surveying the entire parcel. The Commission agreed to the use of Commission funds to help pay for the survey.

Discussion – Public Outreach

Brandon Parker reminded the Commission about his suggestion of reaching out to riverfront residents and other wetland abutters about wetland law and good stewardship. The Commission discussed creating a policy document and posting it on the website. Pam Helinek said she would compile a draft policy document based on suggestions sent by Commissioners and researching Commission policy documents in other towns.

Adjournment

Emilie Wilder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by James Martin, vote 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.