



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 6, 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, Paul Osborne (Asst Commissioner), Joseph Mullin, Frank Caserta (Asst Commissioner)

Staff: Pam Helinek (Conservation Agent)

Public Hearings

Rte 62 and Rte 85, Downtown Rotary, continued NOI 190-0641

Present: Kristina Johnson, Hudson Planning and Community Development; Bill Paille, BSC Group

- Hudson Downtown Rotary Final Design – Phase 1: Landscape Plan; scale 1"=20'
- Hudson Downtown Rotary Final Design – Phase 1: Temporary Erosion Control Plan; scale 1"=20'
- Drainage Maintenance During Construction Plan Downtown Rotary Project – Hudson, MA
- Long Term Drainage Structure Maintenance Plan Downtown Rotary Project – Hudson, MA

The applicant submitted a revised planting plan with more tree varieties and showing the locations of planting islands as well as erosion control plans and both short-term and long-term maintenance plans. Silt sacks will be placed in catch basins beyond the limit of work and straw wattles beyond the limit of work at the top of the driveway between the library and fire station.

There was a discussion about watering the new plants. Jason Weksner said that watering is critical for the first two years. Debbi Edelstein suggested gator bags on the trees.

Brandon Parker said that erosion controls will be changing frequently and that it is important that Pam Helinek is notified and inspects all erosion controls as they are installed.

David Mercer moved to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions. Second by Emilie Wilder, vote 4-0-3. Special Conditions: : all demolition debris to be removed from the site, any stockpiled materials to be surrounded by straw wattles, exposed soils to be surrounded by straw

wattles, site to be stabilized for winter, Conservation Agent to be notified of and inspect all changes in erosion control installations.

2 Silver Oak Road (Lot 10), NOI 190-06xx

Present: Neal Fossile, MCN Realty; Tom DiPersio

Documents:

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

The applicant proposes to build a single family house on a lot containing Buffer Zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. The lot is vacant except for a previously existing detention basin outside the Buffer Zone. A small portion of the house will be in Buffer Zone, the rest of the Buffer Zone work includes significant re-grading (3 feet of fill) and the removal of 26-28 trees. The remainder of the trees at the back of the lot will be left standing. The work is 50 feet from the wetland at its closest point.

Jason Weksner asked about tree plantings. Tom DiPersio said the subdivision regulations require shade trees to be planted by the road. James Martin requested that some native shrubs be planted as well. Emilie Wilder requested mitigation plantings of native trees such as oaks and/or shrubs such as viburnum or clethra.

James Martin moved to continue the hearing to February 20 at 7:00PM in order to get the DEP number and comments and review a new planting plan. Second by Brandon Parker, vote 7-0-0.

Administrative Business

Discussion – Ferjulians' Farm excavation

Present: Eric Ferjulian

The Ferjulians have excavated a detention pond at the edge of the Buffer Zone, downhill from a wetland area of the MBTA ROW. The Commission asked the property owners to notify them when doing future work in the area.

Discussion – Hudson Land Trust, trail work at Danforth Falls

Present: Greg Opp, Robert Burgess, Brandon Parker

Documents:

- Danforth Lot Proposed Improvement Plan; dated January 28, 2020

Brandon Parker prepared a plan for trail improvements in Danforth Park. Improvements include signage and trail markings, cleanup of brush and fallen trees, adding simple boardwalks over areas that are frequently wet or muddy, adding gravel on some pathways, and possibly excavating a drainage trench near the pond. The Hudson Land Trust would like to take responsibility for implementation, largely through a volunteer workday event with Bose Corporation. The Land Trust will pay for any lumber required.

Pam Helinek said that an Order of Conditions would be required for work along Danforth Brook. The Commission discussed a General Trailwork OOC to allow certain minor activities in

wetland areas along trails on Town Land. Pam Helinek will get some examples from Framingham, Weston, and/or Bolton, all of which are believed to have similar OOCs.

Brandon Parker also suggested that the entrances to Danforth Conservation Land at Falls Brook Road and Rindge Road be surveyed so that they can be more clearly marked and signs can be appropriately posted.

Emilie Wilder moved to approve the work outlined in Brandon's proposal, contingent upon acquiring necessary permitting. Second by Jason Weksner, vote 7-0-0.

Minutes: Dave Mercer moved to approve the minutes from January 16, 2020. Second by Brandon Parker, vote 7-0-0

Re-issue of COC – 18 Robert Bonazolli Ave, 190-0264

The original COC was issued, signed, notarized, and recorded in 1998. However the bank has rejected the certificate, noting that the "Complete Certification" box had not been checked on the original document. The Commission signed a new document with the box checked.

Elections for Chair and Vice Chair

Brandon Parker moved to nominate David Mercer as Chair and Emilie Wilder as Vice-Chair for one-year terms. Second by Jason Weksner, vote 7-0-0.

Discussion – Funding for OARS Water Quality Monitoring and Water Chestnut Removal

Brandon Parker noted that Green Hudson had submitted a Town Meeting Warrant Article to pay for the OARS activities. The past few years, the Commission has paid the \$2000 for Water Quality Monitoring. Pam Helinek said she had asked Green Hudson to sponsor the citizen petition so that the money for OARS would not drain the Commission Fund. The fund was meant for Conservation purposes and has been used to assess property values, survey conservation land, etc. Funds taken in through NOI filings would not cover the OARS costs. In most towns, the water quality monitoring is covered by the Board of Health budget. The water chestnut removal was previously funded by a grant OARS had obtained. Last year the grant ran out and Community Development Department paid for the water chestnut removal. Other towns have gone to Town Meeting with warrant articles to pay for this activity.

Brandon Parker said he thought that the OARS work was a good use of Conservation funds. Emilie Wilder suggested the Commission have a scheduled discussion about their funds and how they could be used. Pam Helinek will prepare a report of all commission money for review and discussion.

Adjournment

Emilie Wilder moved to adjourn the meeting, second by Brandon Parker, vote 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 PM.