

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Under Governor Baker's Act "Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency", extending the "Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, §20," issued June 16, 2021, and in effect until April 1, 2025, meeting of public bodies may be conducted virtually provided that adequate access is provided to the public.

LOCATION: Zoom Virtual Platform – the meeting was held virtually per Governor Baker's Emergency Order.

ATTENDING: Dave Herer (Chair), Peter Oehlkers (Vice Chair), Reade Everett, Polina Safran, Fred Moder, Sue Barber, Alison Richardson, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist)

D. Herer opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS –

1. Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of October 26, 2023, as presented, by F. Moder, seconded by R. Everett, approved 6-0-0.

2. Enforcement & Violation Updates

C Hutchinson stated that Staff is reviewing the monitoring information provided for 1297 Central Avenue. More information can be provided at a future date.

HEARINGS/APPOINTMENT

SABRINA LAKE NUISANCE AQUATIC VEGETATION MANAGEMENT (DEP FILE #234-912) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT (*will be continued to December 7, 2023*)

Motion to continue Sabrina Lake Nuisance Aquatic Vegetation Management (DEP File #234-912) to December 7, 2023, by S. Barber, seconded by R. Everett, approved 6-0-0.

49 GREEN STREET (DEP FILE #234-911) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT (*was continued to December 7, 2023*)

This item was previously continued to December 7, 2023.

80 ROBINWOOD AVENUE (NGWP #20) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT

Richard Kirby, LEC Environmental explained that this Notice of Intent is for a second story addition for additional living space on an existing Cape home. This includes a raze, rebuild, and

expansion of an attached garage by 296 s.f. There are a couple of trees proposed to be removed on the property. Two trees and four high bush blueberries are proposed along the wetland. The Commission requested the Applicant request a Certificate of Compliance for a previous open Order for the property at a previous meeting. A joint request for a Certificate of Compliance and as-built plan have been prepared.

There were no questions or comments from the Commission at this time.

C. Hutchinson stated that Staff is recommending a full Certificate of Compliance be granted at this time.

Motion to close the hearing for 80 Robinwood Avenue (NGWP #20), by R. Everett, seconded by F. Moder, approved 6-0-0.

Diane Simonelli, Field Resources, addressed the joint open Order of Conditions for 80 and 74 Robinwood Avenue. There was some flooding occurring on the back of these lots that needed to be addressed. The as-built plan shows an insignificant grade drop at the fence area, with some crushed stone. There was administrative approval to replace an existing deck, which appears to be very similar in scale. Field inverts were not all available, but the system has run for about a year and appears to be working. The homeowner provided paperwork from the Town regarding inspections completed and it appears all items were installed properly.

Robert Petitt, applicant, explained that the wetland areas on either side of the yard continue to collect runoff, but the water no longer pools into the yard, as it used to.

C. Hutchinson stated that the original project was to clear the yard of flooding. The yard historically has abutted a wetlands area. The applicant previously suggested installing a dry well to capture overflow, but this was not feasible. The applicant asked DPW regarding hooking into an existing underground drainage system under Robinwood Avenue. Staff recently visited the site, and the system appears to be working.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 74 and 80 Robinwood Avenue (NGWP #20), by F. Moder, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

190 EDGEWATER DRIVE (DEP FILE #234-916) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT

Tom Schutz, Goddard Consulting LLC, explained that the Charles River runs north of the site, and there is a large bordering vegetated wetland to the south. There is an existing single-family house, deck, driveway, pool, pool house, and tennis courts on the property. The applicant is proposing a 1,360 s.f. deck, some of which will be built in an existing section of porch. The additional 730 s.f. of the deck will be located in a lawn area. A small 40 s.f. second story addition is also proposed. The new impervious surfaces lead to the existing stormwater management system being doubled. A 1,400 s.f. riverfront planting area is also proposed. No trees are proposed to be removed from the site.

There were no questions from the Commission at this time.

Motion to close the hearing for 190 Edgewater Drive (DEP File #234-916), by S. Barber, seconded by R. Everett, approved 6-0-0.

There was discussion regarding requesting a waiver for work in the 25' buffer and a request of the fee waiver. The applicant agreed to send a waiver request to Staff, to be reviewed during a future discussion on the Order of Conditions.

OTHER BUSINESS:

80 ROBINWOOD AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-854) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This item was previously addressed.

68 MACKINTOSH ROAD (DEP FILE #234-889) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

C. Hutchinson explained that this item deals with site improvements for a renovation on this site. No mature vegetation was removed for this project. The patio was proposed to be expanded, but this was not by a significant amount. Stormwater units were installed. A shed was within the back of the 25' buffer and there had been historically dumping of lawn debris behind it. This was cleaned up. A fence in that area was removed. A mitigation planting plan was not required, but six plantings in the buffer area were required for additional naturalization and these have been installed. Staff recommends issuance of a full Certificate of Compliance.

There were no questions or comments from the Commission at this time.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 68 Mackintosh Road (DEP File #234-889), by S. Barber, seconded by F. Moder, approved 6-0-0.

94 BROOKSIDE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-31) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

C. Hutchinson explained that this project had an order that was originally issued in 1980. The 1980 Order of Conditions was for establishment of the original driveway. The whole site has been reconfigured under an existing Order of Conditions. The superseding order allowed for a tear-down of a burnt house and other items. The intention is to close out the old historical order to clean up the title, while the applicant continues working under the existing Order of Conditions.

There were no questions from the Commission at this time.

A. Richardson exited the meeting at this time. P. Safran joined the meeting at this time.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 94 Brookside Road (DEP File #234-31), by S. Barber, seconded by R. Everett, approved 5-0-0.

The Commission reviewed its 2024 meeting schedule.

Motion to accept the 2024 Commission meeting schedule, by F. Moder, seconded by P. Safran approved 6-0-0.

The Commission discussed the conditions for the Order for 80 Robinwood Avenue.

A. Richardson rejoined the meeting at this time.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for 80 Robinwood Avenue (NGWP #20), by S. Barber, seconded by F. Moder, approved 7-0-0.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn the meeting, by P. Safran, seconded by R. Everett, approved 7-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

December 7, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*