

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 8, 2021

Under Governor Baker's emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law G.L. c. 30A, S20," issued March 12, 2020 and in effect until termination of the emergency, 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: Peter Oehlkers (Vice Chair), Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Artie Crocker, Sue Barber, William Murphy, Stephen Farr, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

P. Oehlkers opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS –

1. Minutes

None at this time.

2. Enforcement & Violation Updates

None at this time.

HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS

94 BROOKSIDE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-861) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

Susan McArthur, McArthur Environmental Consulting, LLC, explained that a revised plan was submitted showing plantings within the 25' buffer zone itself. 12 highbush blueberry bushes are proposed to be planted in that area, along with tree plantings. This will allow for distance between the lawn and the plantings.

In response to a question from J. Carter Bernardo, S. McArthur stated that the car will be removed, and a condition will be included that this shall not be dragged out of the area. The existing fence will remain. A section that has been knocked down will be replaced in the same footings.

There was discussion regarding leaving some snags on the property for wildlife value.

Motion to close the hearing for 94 Brookside Road (DEP File #234-861), by J. Carter Bernardo, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

391 DEDHAM AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-8XX) – NOTICE OF INTENT

Diane Simonelli, Field Resources, explained that, in the process of filing a new order of conditions for this property, there was some confusion as to if the original order was closed. It was determined that the original order was still open. With the original certificate, a plan showing a deed restriction was required. The plan for the certificate was submitted that reflects stone markers and a restriction area. The restriction is being reviewed by an attorney at this time.

C. Hutchinson stated that he reviewed the site and the bounds as shown.

P. Oehlkers stated that part of the plan was removal of invasives. C. Hutchinson stated that he did not view any on the site. The area appears to be successfully vegetated beyond the mulch beds. The plant installation was completed and received a partial certificate of compliance in 2014. A new project on the site could help to further the plantings. D. Anderson stated that the original plan does note the types of plantings. D. Simonelli stated that there was a minor modification to the plan regarding the types of plantings.

D. Simonelli stated that, in terms of the new Notice of Intent, the homeowners have proposed additional planting areas within the lawn area in hopes of increasing the buffer to the wetlands.

D. Simonelli presented the new Notice of Intent application. This includes additional plantings and a two-tiered patio and walkway. A trench drain is proposed to handle the runoff.

In response to a question from S. Barber, D. Simonelli explained that the proposal includes an increase of 284.8 s.f. of impervious surface in the 25' buffer zone. No runoff will leave the patio without entering the stormwater management system. Soil testing was completed for the proposed recharge systems and came back as adequate. The patio will be made of impervious natural stone.

J. Carter Bernardo asked if there is any concern regarding additional patio area being placed within the 25' buffer zone. D. Simonelli explained that the owners are trying to get some living space in the backyard, and this is tricky due to the lot layout. She explained that she would present the owners with some other possible pervious material options.

Motion to continue the hearing for 391 Dedham Avenue (DEP File #234-8XX) to April 22, 2021, by A. Crocker, seconded by J. Carter Bernardo, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

94 BROOKSIDE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-861) – REVIEW ORDER OF CONDITIONS

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions.

Motion to allow for work within the 25' buffer zone for 94 Brookside Road (DEP File #234-861), by A. Crocker, seconded by J. Carter Bernardo, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to waive the fee for 94 Brookside Road (DEP File #234-861), by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to approve the Order of Conditions for 94 Brookside Road (DEP File #234-861), by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 6-0-0.

391 DEDHAM AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-674) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The Commission agreed to review this at a future meeting.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn the meeting, by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 6-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

April 22, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*