

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 7, 2022

Under Governor Baker's Act "Extending Certain COVID-10 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, 2022, 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: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Stephen Farr, Artie Crocker, Sue Barber, William Murphy, Alison Richardson, Deb Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:00 p.m.

HEARINGS/APPOINTMENTS

SOUTH STREET AND DEDHAM AVE BOAT ACCESS (DEP FILE #234-878) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

**The Applicant has requested to withdraw the Notice of Intent Application. The Commission will review and respond to the request to withdraw without prejudice.*

Motion to allow the applicant to withdraw the Notice of Intent without prejudice for South Street and Dedham Boat Access (DEP File #234-878), by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-0.

0 WALKER LANE AND 0 CHARLES RIVER STREET - WALKER POND STORMWATER IMPROVEMENT (DEP FILE #234-884) – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

Tom Ryder, Town Engineer, explained that the plan has been revised to remove the Charles River section. The improvements in front of Walker Pond are proposed to move forward. There is only one tree proposed to be removed in this area. Two replacement trees are proposed as mitigation.

There was no public comment at this time.

Motion to close the hearing for 0 Walker Lane and 0 Charles River Street – Walker Pond Stormwater Improvement (DEP File #234-884), by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

463 SOUTH STREET (DEP FILE #234-885) – NOTICE OF INTENT

Tom Schutz, Goddard Consulting, explained that the applicant is proposing some grading, to raze and rebuild the structure on site, and mitigation for previous removal of three trees. The Commission previously expressed concern regarding a proposed retaining wall and grading proposed within the buffer zone. All of the grading has been removed from this area and the retaining wall has been moved out of the buffer zone. No trees on the east side of the site will be impacted. Eight mitigation trees are proposed to be planted.

There was discussion regarding the planting plan. There was agreement that there should be larger caliper trees proposed as mitigation.

C. Hutchinson suggested that the Commission consider approval contingent on receipt of a separate stamped plan of record.

There was no public comment at this time.

Motion to close the hearing for 463 South Street (DEP File #234-885), by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

56 BLACKSMITH DRIVE (DEP FILE #234-850) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Mark Arnold, Goddard Consulting, explained that this is a request for a Certificate of Compliance for a project including an addition to a single family house and installation of a rain garden on the site. The project is in substantial compliance at this time.

C. Hutchinson noted that the plans mention a 4” deep rain garden, but the actual depth is closer to 2”. This still meets and exceeds the requirements for the built addition.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 56 Blacksmith Drive (DEP File #234-850), by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

78 ELDER ROAD (DEP FILE #234-880) – REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION

C. Hutchinson explained that this is a minor modification request to allow a fence to run along an area of lawn down the property line. This will require the relocation of one proposed planting behind the fence line. The proposed fence will have a 6”-8” gap at the bottom.

The Commission discussed the request and agreed it was a minor modification.

Motion to approve a Minor Modification for 78 Elder Road (DEP File #234-880), by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Minutes

None at this time.

2. Enforcement & Violation Updates

None at this time.

D. Anderson stated that a lot has been purchased on Heather Lane and a house is being constructed on it outside of jurisdiction. A tree has fallen into the river and the request is to drag it from the river using chains. She informed the owner that it should not be removed, as it is useful as wildlife habitat. She visited the site and presented pictures to the Commission.

The Commission agreed that the fallen tree should be left in place at this time.

The Commission discussed the draft Order of Conditions for 0 Walker Lane and 0 Charles River Street – Walker Pond Stormwater Improvement (DEP File #234-884).

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions as amended for 0 Walker Lane and 0 Charles River Street – Walker Pond Stormwater Improvement (DEP File #234-884), by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

The Commission discussed the draft Order of Conditions for 463 South Street (DEP File #234-885).

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions as discussed for 463 South Street (DEP File #234-885), by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

ADJOURN:

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

April 28, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*