

TOWN OF NEEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 11, 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, S20," 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), Sue Barber, Dave Herer, 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

54 PHEASANT LANDING ROAD – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

Bruce Ringwall, Goldsmith, Prest & Ringwall, Inc., explained that this is a ¾ acre lot and much of the backyard is wetlands. The circular driveway currently has a paved parking spot, and the proposal is to build a freestanding, detached garage in the footprint of the existing parking spot. The applicant was before the Zoning Board of Appeals last night to obtain a Special Permit to allow for the garage space on the property, and this was permitted pending the Commission's approval. The proposal includes a plan to dig around the building and install a drip edge so that three sides of the roof will recharge the runoff. At its closest point, the pavement is 72' from the wetlands. A wattle and silt fence are proposed on the downgradient side during construction. No new impervious area is proposed, and no trees will be removed. No new grading is needed. The wetlands were last flagged approximately 1.5-2 years ago.

There was no public comment at this time.

Motion to close the hearing for 54 Pheasant Landing Road, by S. Barber, seconded by D. Herer, approved 4-0-0.

Motion to issue a negative Determination of Applicability for 54 Pheasant Landing Road, by S. Barber, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 4-0-0.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

1. Minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of June 23, 2021, as amended, by A. Richardson, seconded by D. Herer, approved 4-0-0.

2. Enforcement & Violation Updates

D. Anderson gave an update on the Southfield Court project. The Commission had previously decided that a number of cattails and water lilies should be preserved for the wildlife in the area. She received a notification from SOLitude Lake Management that an application would be carried out, but there had not yet been a pretreatment meeting. Based on a recent site visit, there are currently no cattails or water lilies, and it appears they may have been removed. A. Richardson stated that these species may have died based on anaerobic conditions. D. Anderson stated that the Association should come to the Commission in the fall with ideas on how to improve the situation. Native vegetation should surround the pond in order to protect it.

The Commission agreed that this area would likely become a swamp/wetland, if left alone. This area will not maintain itself as a pond due to its depth.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn the meeting, by D. Herer, seconded by S. Barber, approved 4-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

August 25, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. location to be determined.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*