

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 26, 2017**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building (PSAB), Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, Cory Rhoades, Alison Richardson, Matthew Varrell (Director of Conservation), Debbie Anderson (Conservation Specialist)

GUESTS: John Altobello, Mark Cooperman, Al Gala, Simon Hildt, Caitlin Hunt, Rustom Mehta, Valerie Moron, Larni Rosenlev, Richard Rosenlev, Paul Seaburg, Robert Smart

S. Farr (acting Chair) opened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of December 22, 2016 by A. Crocker, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 2-0-2 (S. Barber & S. Farr abstained).

Motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2017 by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 3-0-1 (A. Richardson abstained)

ENFORCEMENT & VIOLATION UPDATES:

110 SOUTH STREET

M. Varrell stated that he was conducting a site visit on a neighboring property when he observed a pile of landscape debris in the wetlands behind 110 South Street. He spoke with the homeowner and advised them of the violation. Existing storm drain pipes are falling apart creating a pit within the wetlands. The homeowner explained they were trying to fill in the pit and used their landscape debris for this purpose. M. Varrell explained this is a violation. M. Varrell stated the owner was willing to remove the debris. M. Varrell will check back in a month to make sure it was indeed removed. No official violation, enforcement or fines are necessary at this time. M. Varrell will notify the Water & Sewer Department regarding potentially repairing the pipe system as it may be forming a safety hazard.

HEARINGS

25 MARR ROAD – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-769)

S. Farr opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m.

M. Varrell stated that the Applicant had requested a continuance to the February 23, 2017 public meeting. The Applicant has been advised the need to re-notify abutters prior to the meeting.

Motion to continue the public meeting for 25 Marr Road (DEP File #234-769), at the Applicants request, to February 23, 2017 at 7:45 p.m. by A. Crocker, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 5-0-0.

9 ALDEN ROAD – NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-775)

S. Farr opened the public hearing at 8:00 p.m.

The owner, Rustom Mehta and his representatives Robert Smart and John Altobello were present. The architect, John Altobello described the proposed project. The Applicant is proposing to construct two additions off the rear of the house and an attached two-car garage. A gravel driveway is proposed to access the new garage. Soil test pits were advanced and the soils are favorable for installation of a drywell at the front of the house to pick up the drainage from the new garage roof and portions of the existing house. Erosion controls are proposed as well as protection of trees. Work proposed in the 25-foot Buffer Zone includes re-locating the existing bulk head and re-paving a portion of the driveway. Portions of the existing house and driveway are located in the 25-foot Buffer Zone. A waiver request was submitted for work in the 25-foot Buffer Zone. Pervious pavers are proposed for the patio area.

M. Varrell noted that a Town-wide Stormwater Bylaw will likely become effective at some point in the future and may require retrofitting stormwater controls whenever a Building Permit is pulled.

Motion to close the public hearing for 9 Alden Road (DEP File #234-775) by A. Crocker, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue a Waiver for work in the 25-foot Buffer Zone by A. Crocker, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for 9 Alden Road (DEP File #234-775) by A. Crocker, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 5-0-0.

54 PERRY DRIVE - REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

S. Farr opened the public meeting at 8:15 p.m.

The property owners, Richard and Bonnie Rosenlev were present. R. Rosenlev described the proposed project. They are proposing a bump-out addition off the rear of their house supported by three sonotubes, installation of a deck supported by sonotubes off the side of the house, as well as regrading the side yard and removal of a play area. The work will require installation of erosion controls within the 25-foot Buffer Zone. The Commission will require the submittal of a Waiver Request for work in the 25-foot Buffer Zone. The drywell is not shown on the plan.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 54 Perry Drive to February 9, 2017 at 7:45 p.m. for submittal of a Waiver Request and revised plan, by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

124 SOUTH STREET – NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-774)

S. Farr opened the public meeting at 8:25 p.m.

The Applicant's Representatives, Mark Cooperman and Paul Seaburg, presented the proposed project. M. Cooperman explained the Applicant would like to add a sports court and an above-ground swimming pool and rehabilitate areas of existing lawn. The sport court would require an additional retaining wall. Mitigation proposed includes installing 3,300 square feet of native

short grass meadow on an existing slope. In the Bordering Vegetated Wetland exists a boardwalk system that the Applicant proposes to remove and restore 565 square feet of wetland in this area. P. Seaburg explained the proposed drainage updates. The only space around the pool would be deck, no patio.

Draining of the proposed pool was discussed. J. Carter Bernardo will review the drainage calculations. The sport court will be impervious, surrounded by retaining walls and crushed stone to capture runoff. M. Varrell described the deficiencies in the Application to M. Cooperman. The meadow seed mix makeup will be provided. No trees will be removed. M. Varrell stated that he had examined the delineation and had some adjustments to the wetlands line. A Waiver Request was submitted for 10 square feet of the sport's court. There is floodplain located onsite. There was discussion whether the top dressing and seed will be installed in the 100-year Floodplain. The area may be too shady to support lawn.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 124 South Street (DEP File #234-774) to February 9, 2017 at 7:45 p.m. by A. Crocker, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 5-0-0.

OFF CAPTAIN ROBERT COOKE DRIVE (MWRA EASEMENT) – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

S. Farr opened the public meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Valerie Moron, Caitlin Hunt of MWRA and Simon Hildt of Stantec presented the proposed project. V. Moron explained that a 36-inch pipeline is located in a wooded area off Captain Cooke Drive toward Hurd Brook. A 12-inch pipe is connected to the 36-inch pipe and this pipe is leaking chlorinated water. The leak needs to be repaired. Seven trees, mainly invasive species, will need to be removed for access and steel plates will be placed on the ground during construction. Silt fence and straw wattles are proposed for erosion control. M. Varrell explained that the MWRA is exempt from filing under the WPA and is exempt from the local Bylaw but they did as a courtesy.

Motion to close the public hearing for Off Captain Cooke Drive (MWRA Easement) by A. Crocker, seconded by C. Rhoades, approved 4-0-1, A. Richardson recused herself.

Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for Off Captain Robert Cooke Drive (MWRA Easement) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 4-0-1 A. Richardson recused herself.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BEAVER UPDATE

M. Varrell provided the Commission members with an update on the issues with beavers in Needham, primarily the beavers that populate the reservoir. Beavers had constructed a dam at the spillway from the reservoir to the stream, resulting in water backing up and flooding at least one property adjacent to the reservoir. The Town DPW has been raking out the dam periodically. The Town also hired a trapper to evaluate the situation and his recommendation was to set lethal traps for the beavers. A total of three beavers were trapped but there are signs of continued beaver activity.

M. Varrell spoke with the person leading the beaver issue resolution for the Town, Ed Olsen, Superintendent of the Parks and Forestry Department. The town obtained a second opinion on the issue from Mike Callahan of Beaver Solutions. It was determined that a device called a “Beaver Deceiver” could be installed in this area and would be a non-lethal way to co-exist with the beavers and reduce the flooding issue. The Town has agreed to pay for the installation. It remains to be seen if the beaver activity (e.g. eating of vegetation etc.) will have any ramifications to the proposed Reservoir Trail project (NART) project.

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE (CPC)

Conservation Commissioner and CPC Member, Artie Crocker, gave the Commission an update on pertinent CPC activities.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2017 at 7:30 PM in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.