

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 9, 2020**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, William Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Alison Richardson, Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

GUESTS: None.

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:31 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes from the October 24, 2019 meeting and the November 14, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes of October 24, 2019 by S. Farr, seconded by S. Barber, approved 6-0-1 (W. Murphy abstained).

Motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019 by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-2 (J. Carter Bernardo and P. Oehlkers abstained).

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS

54 PHEASANT LANDING ROAD – TREE REMOVAL VIOLATION UPDATE

Staff updated the Commission Members on correspondence from the homeowner that a wetland delineation had been completed and a Notice of Intent permit application will be forthcoming. A previous Enforcement Order had been issued in October 2019, requiring the submission of an after-the-fact Notice of Intent permit application by March 2020 for the unpermitted work that had been completed and future work to be requested. Staff stated that the Applicant was in good standing with the Enforcement Order at this time.

HEARINGS:

475 SOUTH STREET (DEP FILE #234-840) – NOTICE OF INTENT

Prior to the meeting, the Applicant submitted a request to Staff for a continuation of the hearing to the next regularly scheduled meeting, to allow time for revised application materials.

Motion to continue the public hearing for 475 South Street (DEP File #234-840) to January 23, 2020 at 7:45pm by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1409 GREAT PLAIN AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-773) – REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

The Commission received a request for Certificate of Compliance for work completed at 1409 Great Plain Avenue. Staff reviewed the as-built plans and narrative summarizing the completed work, deviations from the

originally permitted work, and previously issued minor modifications for the work. Staff noted that the revised fence and deck locations were previously approved as minor modifications. Staff had completed a site visit to confirm the final site conditions and recommended a complete Certificate of Compliance.

Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 1409 Great Plain Avenue (DEP FILE #234-773) by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 7-0-0.

DISCUSSION – 390 GROVE STREET – POTENTIAL CONSERVATION COMMISSION LAND DONATION

Staff had been approached by Planning Board Staff regarding the potential donation of a parcel of land abutting Ridge Hill Reservation pending the approval of a subdivision. The donated parcel would be comprised mostly of wetland resource area and would connect to another parcel currently owned by the Commission. The Commission expressed interest in the parcel of land pending additional information from Staff.

WALKER POND WORKING GROUP

Members of the public had requested Community Preservation Act funds for proposed management activities at Walker Pond. The Parks and Recreation Commission requested that the neighbors of Walker Pond work with the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as other Town Boards and Departments. Conservation Staff invited Commission Members to participate in the forthcoming working group for the future of Walker Pond.

TREE REGULATIONS AND POLICIES – DISCUSSION

Staff provided some examples of tree bylaws and other land-use policies from neighboring municipalities as well as from other States. The Commission discussed concerns over the increasing construction period tree damage and post-construction tree removals that were not proposed during the wetland permitting process for multiple projects. The Commission requested that Staff write an outline of the key points from the discussion and research similar policies for a future discussion on local tree removal policies within the wetland permit process.

RIDGE HILL AND NIKE SITE FEASIBILITY STUDY FORUM

Staff informed the Commission that the Town Manager and Select Board plan on hosting a public forum for discussion on the feasibility study conducted for Ridge Hill Reservation and the Nike Site. The forum is intended to be an open discussion preceding a second-round study. The Commission stated that they were not fully informed of the findings from the previous study and will not co-host a meeting with little notice. However, they expressed interest in participating without committing to any endorsements of future actions without further information. The open meeting is tentatively scheduled for February, with a firm date and time to be decided.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

January 23, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.