

Conservation Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
September 8, 2022

Roll call was taken of members and staff present included: Chair, Peg Arguimbau, Vice Chair, Meredith Avery, and Stephen Cremer. Colin Barbera, Jon Wasserman and Keevin Geller were not present. Alan Westman arrived at 7:54 PM. Staff present included Josh Philibert, Conservation Administrator and Jana Katz, Conservation Clerk.

Arguimbau opened the meeting by reading Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020. As of June 15, the measure was extended in An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, allowing by Governor Baker to continue to permitting virtual public meetings until March 31, 2023. Per guidance from the State, Arguimbau noted that all votes would be taken by roll call. She then reviewed the ground rules for the meeting.

The remote meeting was called to order at 7:40pm.

7:42 PM **Continued Public Hearing** COC DEP#SE-280-0632, 113-115 Norwood Street and DEP#SE280-0633, 119 Norwood Street – Matt Grosshandler, Driveways

The applicant and Conservation Administrator discussed the adequate status of the drain basins previously in question. Philibert reported to members that the plan Grosshandler put into place for creating a clean catch basin included a clear exit for the pipe well above the basin. There were no questions. The Chair temporarily moved onto other matters, planning on returning to the hearing later in the meeting to take up a vote.

7:46 PM **Discussion Item** Knotweed Control Test Plots

The chair stepped out briefly to contact Alan Westman. Vice Chair, Meredith Avery assumed leadership. Avery summarized the discussion at the August 11th meeting. Members had discussed the encroachment of Knotweed in and around Lake Massapoag. Up for discussion was performing a test treatment on a portion of growth near the lake and more details on the refined approach proposed described as cut and dab.

Rory McGregor presented on behalf of the group hoping to get permission to create two test plots: one on public and one on private land. Areas around the boat dock and rotary were identified as ideal locations, in part due to their visibility. On public land, a licensed applicator is required. McGregor explain the private land would be ideal near the Massapoag Yacht Club which would not require a licensed applicator. In previous years the MYC took initiative and cleared a whole plot of land of Knotweed.

Sue Drisko explained the tactic of cut and dab which would begin in mid-October after the last round of cutting the plants, while they bring all of their energy to the roots and prepare for winter. The cutting is labor intensive and difficult but it provides great access for the herbicide to be injected into the roots. The technique does not require spraying glysohate on the leaves and risk contaminating the air. Because Knotweed as well as other plants in the area like Bittersweet grow rhysonically with an underground root system, eradication requires herbicidal treatment at the end of the season. In addition to administering herbicide at the end of the season, the treatment plan includes cutting back the leaves throughout the growing season to prevent seeding. The DPW currently assists in debris removal from the cutting and stashing that occurs throughout the growing season.

The DPW assists in the removal of debris from the cutting and stashing occurring throughout the growing season.

On the topic of public land requiring a licensed applicator, Philibert noted that Kevin Weber at the DPW is a licensed applicator and is willing to contribute to the plan but his help would be limited to an amount of hours that would not adequately complete the testing project. He did offer the name of others who would be good fit for the tasks. Philibert noted there is no budget to obtain a licensed applicator currently. Drisko noted that with the unusual weather patterns, the best time for cutting and dabbing may extend into early November.

Avery asked three questions. One, will the test plot comply with the requirement to make sure the cut and dab location by the lagoon are not sites where endangered species like tooth cup are located? Two: Are any proposed locations in standing water? Three: is there consideration in performing the cut and dab earlier in the season due to drought stress?

Cremer added a questioned regarding precautions that anyone monitoring the growth should take if cutting down the plants and potential hazards?

Avery clarified that caution when bagging up the cuttings was paramount. Flowering plants are not seeds and the best method is to cut them down. When seeds are present the clippings are to be immediately bagged after cutting them back.

The Chair, Peg Arguimbau, returned at 7:54 PM. Alan Westman arrived at 7:54 PM.

Rita Corey noted that she performed 30-40 hours of working removing Knotweed from the Community Center beach area with other Sharon residents. She has also brought a flyer informing community members about Knotweed that Holbrook uses. The flyer includes photos of the plant. Philibert shared the flyer. Drisko and Avery discussed the ability to safely use Knotweed in salads. Arguimbau stated the matter would be revisited at the September 22nd meeting and thanked community members for their continued work on the matter.

8:07 PM Continued Public Hearing 61 Eisenhower Dr., Yury Deych – Wetland Replication

The applicant e-mailed the Conservation Administrator asking for a continuance to the September 22, 2022 meeting.

Motion: To continue the hearing until September 22, 2022

Avery moved

Westman seconded

Avery - Aye, Cremer – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

4-0-0 Motion Passed

8:08 PM Continued Public Hearing COC DEP#SE-280-0632, 113-115 Norwood Street and

DEP#SE280-0633, 119 Norwood Street – Matt Grosshandler, Driveways

Avery provided a recap for the meeting. In a previous site visit, there was a partial outlet pipe blockage. The applicant has since remedied the situation with a stone bottom. Photos look good and the site was monitored during heavy rainfall when it handled the flow well.

Motion: To close the hearing and issue Certificates of Compliance for DEP#SE280-0632 and DEP#SE280-0633.

Cremer moved
Avery seconded
Avery - Aye, Cremer – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye
4-0-0 Motion Passed

8:10 PM Other Business Reappoint Keevin Geller to the Community Preservation Committee

Motion to reappoint Keevin Geller to the CPC.

Motion: To reappoint Keevin Geller to the Community Preservation Committee.

Cremer moved
Westman seconded
Avery - Aye, Cremer – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye
4-0-0 Motion Passed

8:11 PM Other Business Approve August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes will be taken up at the September 22, 2022 meeting.

8:12 PM Discussion Topic 8 Kings Road Violation – Raj Singh

Philibert updated members that Singh will be attending the September 22, 2022 meeting and Philibert will have photos at that time. He performed a site visit and noted there are 7-8 Sweet Pepper bushes stabilized in the ground and grass growing on site.

8:14 PM Discussion Topic Stormwater Bylaws and Regulations

Stormwater Bylaws and Regulations will be discussed at the September 22, 2022 meeting.

8:15 PM Motion to adjourn at the end of an Executive Session and move into an Executive Session

Motion: Motion to adjourn at the end of an Executive Session and move into an Executive Session.

Cremer moved
Avery seconded
Avery - Aye, Cremer – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

4-0-0 Motion Passed