

Conservation Commission Meeting  
Virtual Meeting  
August 10, 2023

This open meeting of the Sharon Conservation Commission was conducted remotely consistent with An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency, signed into law on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and as amended and extended through March of 2025. These provisions allow public bodies to meet remotely if reasonable public access is afforded so the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. For this meeting, the Conservation Commission convened by video/teleconferencing via Zoom, and members of the public were provided with access information so that they could follow the meeting remotely. All votes were conducted via roll call.

The remote meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Keevin Geller. Chair Peg Arguimbau arrived at 7:40 PM.

Roll call was taken of members and staff present and included: Keevin Geller, Stephen Cremer, Jon Wasserman, and Susan Drisko were present. Vice Chair Meredith Avery, and Alan Westman were not present. Staff present included Josh Philibert, Conservation Administrator and Jana Katz, Conservation Clerk.

<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>New Hearing</b>	<b>RDA 2R Morse Street, Zoo New England, Planting Plan</b>
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Cara McElroy and Bryan Windmiller presented on behalf of Zoo New England, following up on a previous conversation with the commission regarding habitat enhancement in Morse Pond located in Borderland State Park. The goal of the project is to increase vegetative cover for the Blanding Turtle population as well as other aquatic invertebrates and vertebrates in the area. The roots of the woody shrubs will provide hiding places from otters, minks, raccoons and other predators. Zoo New England would like to start in the fall of 2023 and continue into next year.

Plans include using locally sourced seeds and individual plantings. Some buttonbush was grown in a wildlife refuge in Concord. Morse Pond adjacent wetlands would also provide live cuttings for Water Willow and other vegetation. The Sweet Gale will likely be sourced from Concord as well.

Geller and Windmiller discussed the population size (about 20 turtles) which has been studied since 2015. This project is the first step in a collaboration with MA Wildlife and DCR. Windmiller encouraged members to report any sightings of Blanding Turtles to NESHP.

Members voted to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination.

<b>Motion:</b> Motion to close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination to Zoo New England for their Planting Plan for Morse Pond located in Borderland State Park.
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Cremer moved
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Drisko seconded
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Cremer – Aye, Drisko – Aye, Wasserman – Aye, Geller - Aye
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4-0-0 Motion Passed
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<b>7:40 PM</b>	<b>Discussion/Action Item</b>	RCOC Dep# SE280-0511 203 Mountain Street Jonathan Cohen, Single Family Home
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Philibert shared his screen showing areal images of the lot at 203 Mountain Street. He said he saw were no issue with the commission issuing a COC.

Members voted to issue a COC for DEP# SE280-0511.

<b>Motion:</b> Issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP# SE280-0511 for a project located at 203 Mountain Street.
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Drisko Moved

Wasserman seconded

Cremer – Aye, Drisko – Aye, Wasserman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye, Geller – Aye

5-0-0 Motion Passed

<b>7:45 PM</b>	<b>Discussion/Action Item</b>	Ext. Request DEP# SE280-0610 Prince Wy/Bay Rd David Wluka, Birch Hill Subdivision
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The order will expire in November. Mr. Wluka rescinded the extension request temporarily while he reviewed the terms of the special conditions. He understands he has until the expiration to ask the commission to amend any part of the order as it currently stands.

<b>7:52 PM</b>	<b>Discussion/Action Item</b>	Adding Kevin Davis as an agent representing the Conservation Commission in relation to the Stormwater Bylaw
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Members voted unanimously to designate the Town Engineer and Assistant Town Engineer as agents of the Conservation Commission in relation to the Stormwater Authority. Katz will e-mail Eric Hooper, Peter O’Cain and Kevin Davis with the news.

<b>Motion:</b> To designate the Town Engineer and Assistant Town Engineer as agents of the Conservation Commission in relation to the Stormwater Authority.
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Wasserman Moved

Drisko seconded

Geller – Aye, Wasserman – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Drisko – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 Motion Passed

<b>7:58 PM</b>	<b>Discussion/Action Item</b>	Sharon Marketplace Reconfiguration
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Attorney Bob Shelmerdine and Chris Sokolowski from Bayside Engineering, Inc. were present to discuss redevelopment plans proposed for the parking area at Sharon Marketplace. The project would be located on South Main Street at the Foxboro line, right next to the onramp to I-95 north. The stretch of roadway in front of Shaw’s and the plaza will be receiving a new traffic

light due to the anticipated increase in traffic from the Costco (a building permit has been pulled) that will be going in across the street. Because of the roadwork, the entranceway and exits to the parking area in at Sharon Marketplace will need to be realigned accordingly.

The new entrance to Sharon Marketplace will be directly across from Old Post Road. There will be a traffic signal there. Shelmerdine explained that plans to redo certain aspects of the parking lot had been before the ZBA for months and were approved on August 9<sup>th</sup>. Tom Houston has been handling the stormwater management concerns for the ZBA.

Original plans only included repaving and restriping with potentials for reorienting some of the islands in the lot. Much of the parking lot is outside the 100 foot buffer. John Rockwood from EcoTek has flagged the property.

Chris Sokolowski from Bayside Engineering shared his screen sharing site plans. Most of the work is described as “milling” which does not count as “earth disturbance.” Removing a top layer of asphalt and replacing it is considered different than impacting sub/base level earth below that. The plan includes approximately 3,600 square feet of earth disturbance. Philibert asked for more numbers regarding the depth of the asphalt.

There was discussion about the ZBA’s previous concerns regarding catch basins amount and capacity. Plans are still being finalized. Currently they do not include flow or rate control facilities. Shelmerdine and Sokolowski anticipate filing an NOI with stormwater management specifics later this year.

<b>8:39 PM</b>	<b>Discussion/Action Item</b>	<b>WMAC Meeting August 17, 2023</b>
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The Conservation Commission will be attending the Water Management Advisory Committee Meeting via zoom on August 17, 2023 in an official capacity. The WMAC is hearing from the DPW regarding site alternatives for a proposed water treatment plant. Residents have contacted the office with concerns about the transparency and speed of the evaluation process.

<b>8:45 PM</b>	<b>Discussion/Action Item</b>	<b>Encorachment, 3 Lily Ln Simon &amp; Vlada Zilberman</b>
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This was a continuation of a discussion about the property located at 3 Lily Lane. Homeowners Simon and Vlada Zilberman were first before the commission on July 13, 2023. Members and the Zilbermans agreed that the next course of action is to further investigate the structure of the unauthorized retaining wall and properly identify its distance from the wetland. In order to do that, the Zilbermans will need to remove the wood chips that they placed on a line of boulders on their property. The Zilbermans understand the project was not built per plan as the area was supposed to have been graded. The Zilbermans invited members to visit the property in person.

<b>9:24 PM</b>	<b>Discussion/Action Item</b>	<b>Land Disturbance Permit, Costco Site Development</b>
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Members decided not to require the Costco developers to file with the Commission in its Stormwater Authority capacity, as it the commission had already addressed stormwater related concerns and criteria when it was evaluating the related NOI.

**9:25 PM      Discussion/Action Item      Lake Update**

Philibert has been releasing water, levels are good. There are visible flakes of cyanobacteria.

The lose dose alum treatment was performed near Camp Everwood as was recenety permitted with the amendment to the LMAC OOC DEP#SE280-0425. Water and Wetland put the alum into the lake and a separate company, TRC tested the Ph levels. The Ph dropped to 4.12 where the median was up in the 6's. The 4.12 would have been deadly to aquatic populations so the amount of buffer going into the lake with the alum treatment was adjusted. The Ph issue was believed to have occurred because of scheduling a short time period to complete the task. In the future, or when considering adding alum to the entire lake, additional time would be best.

**9:25 PM      Discussion/Action Item      Conservation Administrator Update**

Philibert met with The Trustees of Reservations to walk the Perkins Loop nearby King Philips Rock. Some encroachment on CR land was observed. The formal process will be: DCR sends letter about encroachment to Philibert and then Philibert sends a certified letter with information, maps, and instructions to the landowner.

Cremer brought up the possibility of utilizing goats for invasive weed management.

**9:33 PM      Other Business      Approve Meeting Minutes**

Not enough members were present to take up the meeting minutes from the April 13<sup>th</sup> meeting and Executive Session. Members voted to approve the July 17<sup>th</sup> minutes as amended.

**Motion:** Motion to accept the July 17, 2023 minutes

Cremer moved

Drisko seconded

Geller – Abstain, Wasserman - Abstain, Cremer – Aye, Drisko – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

3-0-2 Motion Passed

**9:38 PM      Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion:** Motion to adjourn

Cremer moved

Drisko seconded

Geller – Abstain, Wasserman - Abstain, Cremer – Aye, Drisko – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 Motion Passed