

Conservation Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
December 7, 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 16th, 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 7:31 pm by the Chair, Peg Arguimbau.

Roll call was taken of members and staff present and included: Chair, Peg Arguimbau, Alan Westman, Stephen Cremer, and Susan Drisko. Keevin Geller and Jon Wasserman were absent. Staff present: Josh Philibert, Conservation Administrator, and Jana Katz, Conservation Clerk.

Members of the public in attendance: DPW Superintendent Eric Hooper, David Hearne, Ira Miller, Laura Henze Russell, David Crosby, Matthew Piazza, Frank Xia, Julia Tavares, Karen Wise, Brian Cassie, Sam Liao, Adam Velthaus, and Megan Burnett.

7:35 PM	Continued Hearing	NOI 000 Upland Rd. (Tree Lane), Eric Hooper Water Treatment Facility, DEP#SE280-0653
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The hearing as continued to December 21, 2023 with the applicant's permission.

Motion: to continue the hearing on DEP#SE280-0653 for a Water Treatment Plant located at 000 Upland Road to the December 21, 2023 meeting at 7:30PM.

Drisko moved Cremer seconded Cremer – Aye, Westman – Aye. Drisko – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye 4-0-0 Motion Passed
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7:37 PM	Action/Discussion Item	NOI Ext Request 126 Morse St., Matthew Piazza Residential Construction, DEP#SE280-0624
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Members voted to extend DEP#SE280-0624 for Matthew Piazza who was present.

Motion: to issue a two year extension for DEP#SE280-0624 for a project at 126 Morse Street.
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Drisko moved Westman seconded Cremer - Aye, Westman - Aye, Drisko - Aye, Arguimbau – Aye 4-0-0

7:40 PM	Discussion/Action Item	Vote to Authorize Use of Digital Signatures
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Members previously discussed using digital signatures on permits; language in town bylaws would allow for the Conservation Commission to sign permits electronically in its capacity as the Stormwater Authority as well as on wetlands related permits.

Motion: The Sharon Conservation Commission hereby recognizes and accepts the provisions of M.G.L. c.110G regarding electronic signatures and that its members will henceforth execute documents either with electronic signatures or with wet ink signatures and that both will carry the same legal weight and effect.

Drisko moved

Cremer seconded

Cremer – Aye, Westman – Aye, Drisko – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

4-0-0 Motion Passed

7:42 PM	Discussion/Action Item	Herptile Report, Brian Cassie
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Foxboro resident and local herpetologist, Brian Cassie, has been researching wildlife population trends for fifty years. Mr. Cassie dedicated 2023 to herptiles – and joined the Conservation Commission at its December 7th meeting to share his data. Massachusetts is home to about 50 species of reptiles and amphibians. From March to November, over the course of 33 visits, Mr. Cassie observed 22 species along Moose Hill Street. He called it the most species-diverse place he's seen in Massachusetts this year. Mr. Cassie also noted he spotted over 200 victims of roadkill. His data will be put up on the Conservation Department web page.

8:01 PM	Discussion/Action Item	Lake Update
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Lake levels are steady at 9.72, up from earlier in the season. Philibert removed one board from the control structure in the lagoon with long term planning in mind.

8:02 PM	Discussion/Action Item	Conservation Administrator Update
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Philibert hopes to contact Zoo New England to discuss habitat improvements at the bogs. He has been dismantling dams that a beaver has been making in the Middle Pond.

8:03 PM	Other Business	Reappointments
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Arguimbau reminded everyone that there is still a vacancy on the commission and the Select Board will also be voting to reappoint members whose terms are expiring this year, at the December 19th meeting.

8:05 PM	Other Business	Adjournment
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As Drisko had previously exited, at 8:05 there was no quorum to vote on adjourning. Members agreed to end the meeting and schedule the next one for December 21, 2023.