

Conservation Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
March 18, 2021

Roll call was taken of members and staff present included: Peg Arguimbau, Chair, Meredith Avery, Vice Chair, Stephen Cremer, and Colin Barbera. Alan Westman and Keevin Geller arrived at 7:46 PM. Jon Wasserman was not present. Staff present included John Thomas, Conservation Administrator and Jana Katz, Clerk.

The remote meeting was called to order at 7:31PM.

7:32 PM	Request for Determination 181 Pond Street, Nitsch Engineering Town of Sharon, Sharon High School Turf Field
----------------	---

Will Schreefer from Nitsch Engineering gave an overview of the project with accompanying visuals via screen-sharing. The Request for Determination is for work at the Sharon High School football field. The plan includes general maintenance and land improvements on previously disturbed land with no changes to buffer zones or adjacent areas. Scott Bard, project engineer, continued with the screen-share identifying the resurfacing of the track and the location for an insulated underdrain system. The project would not increase impervious area or create a change in groundcover pipe within the setback to adjacent wetlands. The underdrain systems are designed to enhance groundwater discharge and promote wetland preservation.

The applicants identified the limit of work in green and nearby BVW's that have an unnamed intermittent stream that falls into Lake Massapoag. The applicants stated that limited work will only involve the field and not encroach on the BVW. The proposed work footprint is very similar to existing conditions. The applicant stated there is no difference between the 10,750 square feet of impervious land cover in the 75-foot buffer zone as well as no change in the 17,435 square feet of pervious land cover in the 100 foot no build zone.

Additional plans include a small increase in pervious area within the limit of work but not within the resource area. The 1,335 square foot increase of impervious surface area would be located at the high jump area.

Arguimbau asked the applicants if overland would be directed to that location. Bard answered that the herringbone pattern would be perforated pipes helping drain the field collected by non-perforated pipes that run the perimeter of the track.

Bard and Cremer brought up for discussion that the plans do not appear to illustrate greater outflow. Bard confirmed that no changes are proposed and the condition is in good working order currently. The outfall is located directly adjacent to the BVW. Bard continued, stating there is only a small increase of impervious area which would be the "delta" in the rain runoff quantities. The underdrain system will not promote rapid flowing of runoff through the system; it will percolate through the grass and the grass section of the area. Thomas noted there will be some filtration; it will not be like a parking lot.

Arguimbau asked about erosion controls. Bard answered that there is a full erosion control plan prepared and all precautions will be taken to prevent any kind of sediment affecting the BVW. Bard also clarified for Arguimbau that there will be silt fence around the entire perimeter of work. Detailed plans are included in the application.

Thomas will incorporate the plan into the Determination. Thomas confirmed he received all necessary green cards.

The applicants stated access to the construction site will be Beach Street and potentially Pond Street with the possibility for Ames Court. The majority of removal would be on Beach Street and Pond Street.

Arguimbau asked for other questions, there were none. Arguimbau stated the commission should take a vote to issue a Negative Determination with the condition that erosion controls are put in place. Additionally, there will be monitoring for increased activity or wear; if something unanticipated happens, the applicants will come back before the commission.

Motion: To issue a Negative Determination with special conditions stated in the minutes above.
Geller moved
Barbera seconded
Avery - Aye, Cremer - Aye, Barbera - Aye, Geller - Aye, Westman –Aye, Arguimbau - Aye
6-0-0 (Motion Passed)

7:52 PM Other Business Chair read Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020.

7:53 PM - Other Business Certificate of Compliance, 9 Borderland Road

The initial Certificate of Compliance for work done at 9 Borderland Road in 1983 was never recorded at the Norfolk County Registry of Deeds. The current property owner was not the owner at the time the certificate issued they hope to get a new certificate issued because they are looking to sell their house. Thomas reviewed the land and what has been done to date. The plans and current site include a deck, a septic system, and a pool. He noted a Notice of Intent would be required for any new work as there is currently an IVW on the property. Borderland Road is located off of Massapoag Avenue near Knob Hill, directly west of Borderland State Park. Thomas recommended the Conservation Commission issue a Certificate of Compliance as the property is in compliance with the permit issued in 1983.

Motion: To issue a Certificate of Compliance
Geller moved
Cremer seconded
Avery - Aye, Cremer - Aye, Barbera - Aye, Geller - Aye, Westman –Aye, Arguimbau - Aye
6-0-0 (Motion Passed)

7:56 PM Other Business Sharon Galleries

Arguimbau and Thomas explained that they received a letter regarding Sharon Galleries; the applicant is looking to proceed with work under the initially approved Order of Conditions and withdraw a newly submitted Notice of Intent that has not yet received a Department of Environmental Protection file number yet. The Commission reached consensus to agree to the withdrawal of the new application. No hearing would be necessary.

8:00 PM Other Business Approval of March 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Motion: To issue accept March 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

Cremer moved

Westman seconded

Avery - Aye, Cremer - Aye, Barbera - Aye, Geller - Aye, Westman –Aye, Arguimbau - Aye
6-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:02 PM Other Business Warrant and Signatures

There are multiple pages at Town Hall awaiting Commission members' signatures. There also must be a new protocol in place as the Town Clerk's Office will no longer notarize documents with the current process. Katz is looking into becoming a notary which may expedite the new process. Not all documents require a notary. There will be two folders at Town Hall, one for solely signatures and one for documents requiring a notary.

8:09 PM Other Business Lake Management Updates

Barbera stated there is no official update. Oxbow will assess the area before August during blooming season.

8:11 PM Other Business Signatures

Katz noted that Westman, Avery, Cremer, and Geller have documents at Town Hall for signatures. She noted digital signatures will be utilized once all members have sent in a digital signature to be filed with the Registry of Deeds.

8:12 PM Other Business Conservation Property Management Database - Field Steward

Thomas explained proposed Seasonal Field Steward tasks including: providing field evaluations using database of cataloged property inventory forming a baseline document to prepare the department for future maintenance. The proposed hire date is July 1, 2021.

Arguimbau noted that some jobs fall into Katz' job description and she may be able to acquire additional hours to complete these tasks. Thomas noted he would like Katz to work 19.5 hours and have some cataloging opportunities for file database management. The additional hours will also be vital for documenting all parcels and all Conservation Restrictions that may be expiring. A revised job description could be sent to Town Administrator Fred Turkington for guidance.

Cremer asked if the Season Field Steward hire date needed to be as late as July 1, 2021. Thomas informed him that Fred Turkington set the parameters: 11 weeks, 30 hours a week, \$15 an hour with a July 1st start date.

The Commission reached consensus to address task lists and what could be divided between Katz and the Seasonal Field Steward. The matter will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

8:21 PM Other Business Storm water Bylaw and Regulations

Thomas circulated the Land Distribution and Land Management Bylaw. Thomas also noted a recommendation from the Department of Environmental Protect to issue finite details in the regulations to prevent the need to amend the bylaw in the future. Current language in the document is modeled after the Town of Mansfield's bylaw.

Arguimbau and Avery led a discussion about the Conservation Commission being named as the awarding authority. There was a question as to how many other commissions in surrounding towns are the awarding authorities. Thomas answered that in all five neighboring towns the Conservation Commission is the storm water authority or will be under new regulations. Arguimbau noted concerns about detailing the commission's legal jurisdiction by May Town Meeting. The next meeting's agenda will include information about the deadline for submitting language for the Town Meeting warrant.

8:27 PM Other Business Manns Pond

Arguimbau and Thomas met at Manns Pond, \$45,000 of Community Preservation Committee money should be enough money for Dam Management project. They identified new locations for a possible observation deck. Westman noted there was an observation deck about 50 years ago. Arguimbau noted there was also a historically informative sign that could be refurbished or replaced. Geller asked if there are any photos of the observation deck. Arguimbau noted it was a DPW project. Westman asked if it would fall under the Department of Recreation's funding. Arguimbau stated the commission could ask for funds as it is on Conservation Land. Geller noted the Community Preservation Committee's enthusiasm for historic projects and asked for evidence that there was an observation deck at the pond. Arguimbau questioned whether the Community Preservation Committee's dam loop funding could be applicable. Cremer asked about repairs to other dams that run out of the lake and Arguimbau stated that these funds could only be used for the Manns Pond area. Thomas suggested that Katz could look into grant opportunities and listed invasive species management, sparsely settled areas, trail upgrades, and seating as topics of interest. Westman noted if the projects costs are in excess of \$50,000 the work out needed to be bid out.

8:36 PM Other Business Scavenger Hunt Update

Lauren Barnes at Town Hall has given approval and praised the project. There will be no cost to the commission. It will be a collaborative effort, the Scouts in town have agreed to help with the physical placing of the objects for the event.

8:39 PM Other Business Dam Management Updates

Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes March 18, 2021

Thomas brought up slides on a screen-share and elaborated that Eric Hooper stated he would like the Conservation Commission to take over Dam Management. Fred Turkington stated the Conservation Commission Administrator would be in charge of monitoring. Avery questioned the possibility of engineering decisions falling within the commission's purview and the difference between overseeing conservation and overseeing infrastructure needs. Arguimbau expressed concerns about the legality of the commission taking over dam management. Thomas stated his willingness to take on a project manager role in Dam Management. Arguimbau stated she will speak to Turkington and Thomas about the matter. Thomas stated more discussion is needed with the DPW to meet upcoming deadlines, it is believed the first one will be in September 2021. Additionally, the DPW has created an Emergency Action Plan.

8:45 PM Other Business Trail Improvements

Discussion centered around continuity on the Massapoag Trail, the need for footbridges, and access to waterfront. There are also potential locations which could be developed to increase continuity.

Specifically, Thomas identified on a screen share some portions of the trail off Morse and Lakeview Street. Foot bridges built by scout are no longer sturdy and some are impassable. The discussion also included potential ADA accessible paths and new parking configurations.

8:48 PM Other Business Upcoming Projects

Anticipated projects for the next meeting: Amtrak will be filing a Request for a Determination of Applicability for Vegetative Management. Mike Khoury will be discussing Rose Lane restrictions on subdivisions.

8:49 PM Other Business Next Meeting: April 1, 2021

Barbera will not be at the April 1st meeting. Arguimbau asked members to let the office know of future absences to the commission will know if there will be a quorum at any meetings.

8:50 PM Motion to Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn

Cremer moved

Westman Seconded

Avery – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)