

Conservation Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
July 1, 2021

Roll call was taken of members and staff present included: Chair, Peg Arguimbau, Keevin Geller, Colin Barbera, and Jon Wasserman. Stephen Cremer and Alan Westman were not present. Staff present included John Thomas, Conservation Administrator and Jana Katz, Conservation Secretary.

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 April of 2022. 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 7:34pm.

7:36 PM	Public Hearings RDA 40 Cheryl Drive, Vegetative Management Plan Adam Greenspan
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Arguimbau began the hearing by reading the public notice regarding this hearing. Adam Greenspan, the property owner was present. He summarized his RDA application. Trowelshop Pond is his behind his land on Conservation Property. Greenspan hired Kunthea Ecological CHECK NAME to draft a vegetative management plan to replace invasive species with native species and protect the environment. Japanese Knotweed is the primary invasive species. There are 11 in total including Norwood Maple, Buckthorn, Himalayan Raspberries and Bittersweet Berries. Plans include erosion control for a process that will take a total of 3 years. Japanese Knotweed cannot be controlled in one year, it takes both manual and herbicidal treatments to address the growth.

Thomas shared his screen while Greenspan outlined the color-coded maps identifying both native and non-native species. Thomas praised the plan and emphasized how necessary to follow the plans completely in a timely manner as some work is time sensitive. He commented that Partier from Amherst as a potential certificated applicator with a license to perform the treatment.

Replanting plans propose a mixture of enhancing what already exists there. Arguimbau asked about the amount of machinery that will be used, the delivery method for plants, the size of the plans, and how they will be planted. At this point Greenspan has not decided on seedlings or plantings. No machinery is planned on being used. Arguimbau noted she would like the conditions to limit the use of machinery to the lawn area. Greenspan is open to any kind of planting and listed pussywillow, alder berries, and dogwood as potentials. The plan includes lower shrubs as opposed to tall trees. He plans to plant a pollinator garden on the property as well.

There were no additional comments or questions. No abutters were present.

Motion: Close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination with special conditions regarding use of machinery
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Barbera moved

Geller seconded

Wasserman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

4-0-0 (Motion Passed)

7:49 PM	Public Hearings NOI Heights Elementary, Parking & Access Safety Improvements Jim Comeau from Bryant Assoc. representing Sharon School Dept.
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Arguimbau read the public notice regarding this hearing. Comeau shared his screen showing detailed designs to reconstruct pavement, sidewalk curbing, and alleviate traffic issues. Excessive cueing on S. Main Street on morning and afternoon drop off and pickup is an issue currently. Proposed plans would introduce a parent cueing line which would follow the perimeter of the site (including work within the 100 foot buffer BVW). It would be possible to fit 160 vehicles on the site, with a potential scenario creating 110 cars for a smaller queue.

A Traffic Impact Report was included with the NOI as the project is being submitted as a redevelopment project. The Walpole St. and S. Main St. along with the exit driveway and in the Cumberland Farms' parking lot would benefit from the parent cueing lane.

GZA was hired to delineate wetland flags over a year ago. They found existing wetland flags that did not get altered. One priority is getting a parent lane as soon as possible. The project proposes work in two phases. Phase 1 would construct only a parent cueing lane. Phase 2 would include resurfacing the existing parking lot and existing driveway as well as sidewalk improvements and new curbing throughout the site.

A portion of the parent cue lane would be constructed within the wetland buffer. The proposed perimeter of the new sidewalk would be partially in the wetland buffer.

GZA assessed subsurface conditions at the site. Proposed infiltration chambers, 150 stormwater infiltrators, will be placed near the southwest corner of the property. Although percolation rates were not taken into account, the numbers include 1-10-25-100 year storm calculations.

Phase two would also include installing several stormwater quality structures which the site does not have currently. The project does meet all nine Massachusetts DEP stormwater standards.

No play structures will be placed over infiltration areas.

There were no other comments or questions. No DEP# issued at time of hearing.

Motion: Close the hearing pending a DEP# with the condition that the CA will perform a site visit after the infiltration area is completely installed.

Geller moved

Wasserman seconded

Wasserman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:12 PM Public Hearings NOI 61 Eisenhower Drive, Wetland Replication in Buffer Zone
Yury Deych

Tim McGuire from Goddard Consulting presented on behalf of the applicant, Yury Deych. Thomas addressed the commission stating that without a DEP# the hearing could not close at the meeting. In 2010 there was an OOC issued for construction of a single family house in an associated wetland area. The true wetland line is a bank of an intermittent stream that flows into a BVW and into a culvert under the street. The previous wetland flagging was done incorrectly. There was an ANRAD last year with the Conservation Commission not comfortable issuing in ORAD without having addressed the replication area on the OOC from 2010.

McGuire shared his screen with the BVW picture and offsite stream. He identified the previously failed replication area where no successful mitigation had been implemented. The additional plans for the site included a residential home which was never built. The applicant seeks a COC so they can proceed with an NOI.

Wasserman asked for clarification of the site of the proposed replication area. Arguimbau asked if the replication area was on property the applicant owned. McGuire stated the plans include a replication area on town property with sufficient mitigation measures in place. Arguimbau replied that DEP will be performing a site visit in July and they should know about this part of the plan. To her knowledge the Conservation Commission has only approved mitigation or replication areas on property owned by the applicant.

Westman asked about the potential need to readjust the housing location if Conservation Commission deems it appropriate. McGuire stated he needs to check the septic portion of the plan.

Motion: Continue the hearing to August 5, 2021 at 8 PM.

Westman moved

Barbera seconded

Wasserman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:30 PM Public Hearings COC Norwood Municipal Light Department
Dan Morrissey

Dan Morrissey from Norwood Municipal Light Department and Dan Cannata from VHB updated that commission on the status of the project. Greg Meister had previously met with the applicants in 2016, all work was completed between 2015 and 2017. Work in Norwood has been completed with a COC issued. No additional comments or questions.

Motion: Issue a COC for Dep#280-0564 and closeout the project.

Geller moved

Barbera seconded

Wasserman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:33 PM Continued Public Hearings AOOO DEP# 280-0602
25 Tiot Street, Residential Construction

An e-mail from Shane Oates dated June 16, 2021 stated:

Good morning John,

We are still working on the detailed calculations for the Commission.

If we could continue to the next available public hearing that would be greatly appreciated, we should have calculations complete by the end of next week.

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Thank you.

Best regards,

Shane M. Oates
Partner, Senior Project Manager

Motion: To continue the AOOC hearing for DEP# SE280-0602, 25 Tiot Street, until August 5, 2021.

Wasserman moved

Geller seconded

Wasserman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:34 PM Discussion Topic(s) Eagle Scout Project Update

Thomas met with Bennet Snyder and his father to discuss minor modifications to the proposed trail connecting Lakeview Street to Lake Massapoag. No platform will be constructed under the proposed bench at the end of the trail. The next step will be the Snyders talking with the Eagle Scout board.

8:35 PM Other Business Conservation Regulations Revision Vote

As of July 1, 2021 the new regulations will go into effect.

Motion: To accept revisions to the Conservation Commission rules and regulations.

Westman moved

Wasserman seconded

Wasserman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:36 PM Discussion Topic(s) Stormwater Bylaw with Kerry Snyder

Kerry Snyder from the Neponset River Watershed Association attended the meeting to discuss the proposed language for the revised Stormwater Bylaw. Commission members had no major comments on the current draft. The goal is to get language in place before a Town Meeting warrant is published should there be a Fall Town Meeting. One area of concern is the definition of Stormwater Authority in the Administration section.

Snyder explained that the Conservation Commission would be granted the authority to oversee Stormwater management by the Selectboard or by the language in the bylaw itself. The proposed language includes provisions so that the Conservation Commission as the Stormwater Authority can review applications for land disturbance to streamline the application process for projects dealing with wetland and upland areas. As is, the language is based on the Town of Westwood's bylaw.

Thomas and Katz will work on getting a finalized version to the members and Snyder with a plan to vote on the newest version at the August meeting.

Snyder clarified Thomas' question regarding use of the monies collected from fees. Snyder said they are able to cover costs related to administration and enforcement. These costs may include: new

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permitting systems, new equipment, experts for enforcement, and experts for review. Snyder offered to send a sample budget for review. She also noted that it should be mentioned in the bylaw with details in the regulations in case the financial numbers need to change with inflation, etc.

Snyder said she is available for the August 5, 2021 meeting.

8:48 PM Other Business Approve Meeting Minutes from June 17, 2021

Motion: To accept the meeting minutes from June 17, 2021

Geller moved

Westman seconded

Wasserman – Abstain, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

4-0-1 (Motion Passed)

8:50 PM Other Business Lake Update

Thomas noted the lake is healthy. The E.coli rating was high and then lowered. Barbera noted that one day it was at 340 and the next day: 40 and then up to 60. He was having a hard time believing those were correct figures. Thomas told commission members that he spoke with Leandra McLean the new town nurse who confirmed that all tributaries are free of E.coli. Lake temperatures have been ranging from 78 degrees to 80/81 degrees.

Barbera asked Thomas for an update regarding FinCom and the funding for managing the invasive species in the lake. Thomas noted that there are certain lake management techniques that can treat E.coli and he would like to check with Solitude to see if any would be viable and feasible to treat the E.coli in the lake. E.coli can thrive in aerobic or anaerobic conditions. Arguimbau noted some E.coli may be present do to geese feces.

Thomas also stated failed septic leaching into the lake, decaying matter decomposing and some other point sources (though not tributaries as previously stated). It was agreed that the Lake Management Committee needs to work with the Conservation Commission so this doesn't continue to be problematic. Arguimbau stated that Lake Management should get a certain amount of money from FinCom to utilize when needed for invasive species management. That plan was a suggestion from the Town Treasurer.

8:53 PM Other Business Conservation Office FY21 Recap

Katz informed the Commission that the Department is \$6,000 under budget and all the numbers have matched up with the reports run by the Accounting Department. The \$8,000 in Land Management fund will cover \$6,350 for Jennifer Goldson's contract to work on the OSRP. There was an increase of 30% in permit applications from FY20 to FY21.

Thomas talked to the members about Katz' one year anniversary in November and her diligent work assisting the commission and the department. He would like to obtain more than the current 12 hours of work allocated to her position as she is working more than 12 hours a week currently to assist with additional departmental projects. Arguimbau agreed with the idea and suggested looking in the personnel bylaws to see what ranges of hours would be applicable to her position. Thomas would like to review Katz' job description to and review her roles and bring them to the commission.

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Arguimbau said the additional hours may be related to Stormwater Authority and is in favor of rewriting the position description.

Katz reported to the commission that she used to be on the Commission for Disability in Sharon which works closely with the Mass Office on Disability. She reached out to Jeff Dougan at the MOD who runs the Community Access Monitor project. She also contacted Paul Remy, the Chair of the Sharon COD. Katz asked both of them if they knew of any resources for the OSRP. Dougan offered to host a zoom or phone call with interested parties to discuss in more detail.

Arguimbau would like to meet virtually with Dougan, Remy, and Linda Berger the head of the Sharon Rec Department.

8:37 PM	Motion to Adjourn
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<p>Motion: To adjourn at 9:04 on July 1, 2021</p>
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<p>Westman moved</p>

<p>Wasserman seconded</p>

<p>Wasserman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye</p>

<p>5-0-0 (Motion Passed)</p>
