

Conservation Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
October 21, 2021

Roll call was taken of members and staff present included: Vice Chair Meredith Avery, Colin Barbera, Alan Westman, and Keevin Geller. Peg Arguimbau arrived at 7:49 PM. Jon Wasserman, and Stephen Cremer were not present. Staff present included Jana Katz, Conservation Secretary.

Avery 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 7:32pm.

7:32 PM	Continued Public Hearing RDA 20 Dehart Avenue Frederic Appel
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Rob Carlezon from Grady Consulting presented on behalf of the applicant giving a brief report showing the proposed septic repair plan. The work will fall within the 200 foot outer riparian zone to Beaver Brook. The property abuts the MBTA/Amtrak Rail lines which separate the brook from the parcel. Carlezon shared his screen to present the plan which includes a 1,500 gallon septic tank, and leeching trenches running parallel to the back of the house. The project falls outside the 100 foot buffer zone to the inner riparian as well as the 100 foot buffer to wetlands. The closest the leeching field will come to Beaver Brook is 170 feet. There is a short block retaining wall in the plans.

Avery asked about the retaining wall and elevation as there were no details on the map. Tree replanting may be problematic due to root growth negatively impacting the septic system. Carlezon noted any replanting would take place outside of the 200 foot riparian zone.

There were no other questions.

Motion: To close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination for the project located at 20 Dehart Avenue
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Barbera moved Geller seconded Westman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Geller – Aye, Avery – Aye 4-0-0 (Motion Passed)
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7:50 PM	Continued Public Hearing RDA 000 Massapoag Avenue Nancy Rae
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Arguimbau reported that she had performed a site visit earlier in the day. Previous questions regarding liability and up-keep responsibility were addressed in an e-mail from Town Administrator Fred Turkington.

Dear Conservation Commission members:

This note will confirm my understanding of the Select Board discussion authorizing the Massapoag Lane neighbors to file an application for work on the above referenced site of Town land. The cost for work performed and the purchase and maintenance of any and all improvements to the land are the sole responsibility of the neighborhood.

Conservation Commission Meeting
Meeting Minutes October 21, 2021

Regards,
Fred

Arguimbau asked Homeowners Association members about a shed located near the property and was told it belongs to an abutter who owns an adjacent property. Avery reported she had performed a site visit and asked for clarification whether the applicants plan no longer includes a deck and platform. Members discussed additional site visits in small groups abiding by the Open Meeting law regulations.

Elana Margolis confirmed that the plans only include vegetation cleanup and noted that an abutter had recently improved the site since the commission's last meeting. Arguimbau was aware of the work done.

Avery stated her approval for issuing a Negative Determination with conditions that the applicants periodically check in with the Conservation Commission as to the status of the cleanup. Arguimbau agreed that if applicants were agreeable there would be no need for them to file a Notice of Intent.

Applicants also agreed to match the proposed fence to the abutters' style fence: 41" tall cedar fence. Avery proposed keeping the fence-bottom flush with the ground as it would prevent snappers from having access to Massapoag Avenue.

Motion: To close the hearing and issue a Negative Determination for phased improvements and installation of a fence on the property located at 000 Massapoag Avenue.

Westman moved

Avery seconded

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

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

**8:14 PM Continued Public Hearing 61 Eisenhower Drive
Yury Deych**

The applicant requested a continuance to November 4, 2021. DEP has issued a Certificate of Compliance.

Motion: To continue the hearing to November 4, 2021

Barbera moved

Wastman seconded

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

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:15 PM Discussion Topic Lake Management Committee

Noah Siegel from the Lake Management Committee began a discussion about weed management. The annual weed survey showed, as anticipated, an expansion in the South Cove by Camp Everwood. There is \$18,000 set aside for herbaical treatment. The Lake Management Committee recommends treating the lake in 2022 in early September as levels drop low enough to protect endangered species

on the shore. Plans also include public relations and education campaigns about the current status of invasive species in the lake and plans to keep the lake level low enough to address it with herbicidal treatment in September. A botanist will be needed for oversight. Siegel also explained that diver assisted suction harvesting would not be enough by itself to manage weed growth. Lake Management Committee members Laura Russel and Stan Rosen were also present.

Siegel shared his screen showing weed survey results. Memorial Beach, Fletcher's Cove, and the Community Center Beach were highlighted areas. Maps showing prior surveys of "before" and "after" treatment showed decreases in density near the Community Center. Siegel recommended performing a new survey in September of 2022 and not performing suction harvesting.

Cyanobacteria algae blooms which need to run naturally cycle through the body of water and cannot be treated. He noted Deb Teatro and Laura Russell compiled information about identifying algae blooms. It was noted fecal matter from dogs and geese promote the algae growth. State testing began in July. No definitive conclusion resulted. Plans for moving forward include minimizing conditions as much as possible.

Russell discussed heavy rains and increased runoff as well as e. coli results from the Board of Health and how they overlay where the algae blooms. Increased precipitation in June, July, and September brought has much as three inches of rainwater a day during storms. The substantial amount of runoff influenced the Board of Health to continue testing past the summer months. Thomas recommended downstream testing to try to identify sources feeding into Sucker Brook which tested extremely high at 900 at the end of September. It was also noted the algae bloom continued into September and October.

Arguimbau asked if Solitude would look to find out where the problems may be coming from or if it should be monitored by residents. She noted NRWA does point testing on a variety of sites downstream starting with Massapoag Brook and Beaver Brook. Volunteers test monthly for e. coli, phosphates, and dissolved oxygen. She suggested pursuing funds and resources for six months of testing a year moving forward. She also noted she lowered the lake levels to flush out the algae bloom. Barbera noted algae presence at Memorial Park Beach.

Geller, Barbera, and Siegel discussed the unknown impact of the blooms on wildlife, noting no additional fish die-offs.

Siegel reported that monitoring the lake has brought together the Recreation Department, the Board of Health, the Water Department, and the Department of Public Health. Camps located on the lake, the sailing team, and the yacht club have also been interested in the process of monitoring and addressing the issue. The Lake Management Committee discussed revisiting the charter from 1969 and expanding the scope and budget for the committee. Camp Everwood expressed a willingness to help financially with testing costs.

Siegel informed members he would be stepping down from the Lake Management Committee at the end of his term as chair. He expressed a desire to stay involved and help in any way he can.

Members discussed having lake level policies in place for seasonal regulation. Barbera and Arguimbau also discussed regular temperature testing. Russell informed members that at Sharon Day there was a lot of input from people looking to get involved with lake management. She would like to see that information easily available to the public.

Barbera discussed utilizing boat registration fees for lake testing costs.

8:54 PM	Other Business	21 Beach Road
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Members decided to tell the applicant they can begin work at their own risk.

8:55 PM	Other Business	Montessori Bilingual School on Lakeview Street
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Steve Ivas performed a site review and determined the work previously done on the property is located more than 100 feet from what he designated as a vegetative wetland or isolated land subject to flooding. Members decided to allow the project to go forward as long as the work outside the 100 foot buffer.

Motion: To accept the Montessori Bilingual School's proposal for work previously done on the property located at 120 Lakeview Street as long as the work stays outside the 100 foot buffer.

Geller moved

Westman seconded

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

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

8:57 PM	Other Business	Approve Minutes
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Stephen Cremer was not present and necessary for the vote so it will be put on the November 4, 2021 agenda.

8:58 PM	Other Business	Norwood Street Site Visit
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Arguimbau and Geller reported to members about the site visit performed at 113, 115, and 119 Norwood Street when they met with property owner, Matt Grosshandler. The applicant agreed to submit as built plans reflecting changes in basin size.

9:01 PM	Motion to Adjourn
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Motion: To adjourn

Geller moved

Westman seconded

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

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)