

**Conservation Commission Meeting**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
December 2, 2021

Roll call was taken of members and staff present included: Chair, Peg Arguimbau, Vice Chair Meredith Avery, Stephen Cremer, Jon Wasserman, Colin Barber (who arrived at 8:16PM) and Alan Westman. Keevin Geller was not in attendance. Staff present included 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 7:30pm.

<b>7:30 PM</b>	<b>Continued Public Hearing 61 Eisenhower Drive</b> <b>Yury Deych</b>
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The applicant requested to formally withdraw the submitted NOI application as DEP issued a COC under superseding orders. The applicant plans on submitting a new application for proposed work on the property. The department office will send a letter to DEP notifying them that the application has been withdrawn.

<b>Motion:</b> To accept the withdrawal request from 61 Eisenhower DEP#280-0634
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Cremer moved Wasserman seconded Avery – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye 4-0-0 (Motion Passed)
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<b>7:38 PM</b>	<b>Public Hearings</b>	<b>RCOC – 15 Laurel Road, DEP#280-0630</b> <b>Paul Coles</b>
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Mr. Coles shared his screen showing the site work plan; Arguimbau informed members the work was completed per plan on a site visit. The commission had no issues with issuing a COC, no abutters were present. Cremer informed commission members has a relationship with Coles outside of the commission but sees no conflict in participating in the review of the project and voting on the matter as he does not have any business dealings with Coles.

<b>Motion:</b> To issue a Certificate of Compliance for DEP#280-0630 located at 15 Laurel Road.
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Avery moved Westman seconded Avery – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Wasserman – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye 5-0-0 (Motion Passed)
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<b>7:45 PM</b>	<b>Public Hearing</b>	<b>AOOC – Briggs Pond, DEP#280-0580 Appointee</b> <b>Leslie Koval OBO Briggs Pond Homeowners Trust</b>
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Leslie Koval represented the Briggs Pond Homeowners Trust, explaining the OOC was extended in November granting permission for herbicidal aquatic treatment to control the weeds (mostly

bladderwort) and maintain recreational use of the pond. The trust has been working with Keith Gazelle of Solitude who suggested adding a copper algicide to treatment plans as well as potentially administering treatment three times instead of twice.

Avery introduced questions regarding the copper treatment. She stated she sees no problem with an increase in chemical use/applications but would like more information if the plans would require introducing a new chemical. She requested additional information regarding the copper algicide including a data sheet from Solitude for the commission's review. Arguimbau also asked for a report from the BPHT after the first round of treatment to assess effectiveness.

The hearing will be continued until the applicant requests a new date after transmitting information requested by the commission to its members.

<b>7:50 PM</b>	<b>Discussion Item</b>	<b>Lake Management Committee Appointee</b>
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Debbie Tatro sent a letter of intent to the commission regarding her potential appointment to the Lake Management Committee. Arguimbau noted Tatro's involvement with the turf field at the High School.

**Motion:** To appoint Debbie Tatro to the Lake Management Study Committee on behalf of the Conservation Commission.

Cremer moved

Westman seconded

Avery – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Wasserman – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

<b>7:53 PM</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	<b>Ashcroft Road Conservation Land Donation</b>
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Land owner Brian Striar reached out to the commission to discuss donating a parcel of land located near Ashcroft Road. Arguimbau informed members that there is a donation of 10 acres at the base of Ashcroft Road that the owners would like to give to the Conservation Commission (ideally before the end of the year) which abuts property already owned by the commission. The commission voted to accept the donation.

**Motion:** To accept Brian Striar's donation of 10 acres of land at the base of Ashcroft Road

Wasserman moved

Avery seconded

Avery – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Wasserman – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

<b>7:58 PM</b>	<b>Discussion Item</b>	<b>Conservation Administrator Applicant: Josh Philibert</b>
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Arguimbau began the discussion by informing the meeting that she, Jon Wasserman, Keevin Geller, and Fred Turkington had met with Philibert in the initial round of interviews. Philibert continued by giving background on his career which began in environmental consulting and led him to teaching science. He also worked on the Town of Sharon's water withdrawal permit vegetation study.

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Philibert also noted he grew up in Sharon and is familiar with the town including trails and conservation land. Eric Hooper reached out to Philibert and encouraged him to apply for the position. Philibert discussed the Conservation Administrator's role in the Storm water Bylaw regulation and likened it to his prior work in Baltimore with the Chesapeake Bay. Philibert commended the town's utilization of GIS programming and mapping.

Arguimbau asked about any challenges Philibert anticipated with the job. Philibert stated he is less familiar with GIS technology and creating maps than reviewing construction plans. He also noted the vast amount of institutional knowledge Greg Meister had developed over his career as something Philibert would need to develop while on the job. Philibert and Avery discussed the lake's monitoring and flume house job requirements. Arguimbau described the control structure in the flume house. Philibert stated he had read the OSRP and the LMC plan and noted his living in Foxboro would be an asset to monitoring the lake as he is local. They continued by discussing enforcement orders and deescalating situations. Westman described scenarios where applicants come forward after knowingly or unknowingly did something incorrectly where enforcement may be necessary.

Barbera and Philibert discussed the Lake Management Committee and related concerns regarding algae blooms. Arguimbau talked about permitting and coordinating with Fred Turkington the harbormaster.

Arguimbau thanked Philibert for attending the meeting and Philibert informed the commission is available to start work as soon as possible.

<b>8:30 PM</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	<b>Executive Session</b>
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Members decided an Executive Session to be held on Thursday December, 9, 2021 would be the most appropriate way to further discuss Conservation Administrator applicants.

<b>8:34 PM</b>	<b>Other Business</b>	<b>Approve Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Motion:** To approve meeting minutes from October 7, 2021

Cremer moved

Barbera seconded

Wasserman – Abstain, Avery – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

5-0-1 (Motion Passed)

**Motion:** To approve meeting minutes as amended from October 21, 2021

Westman moved

Avery seconded

Avery – Aye, Cremer – Abstain, Wasserman – Abstain, Barbera – Aye, Westman – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye

4-0-2 (Motion Passed)

**Motion:** To approve meeting minutes as amended from November 4, 2021

Wasserman moved

Avery seconded  
Avery – Aye, Cremer – Abstain, Wasserman – Aye, Westman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Arguimbau – Aye  
5-0-1 (Motion Passed)

**8:40 PM      Discussion Item      Conservation Administrator Applicant: Liz Peterman**

Peterman began by discussing her career in environmental management with the state of Rhode Island, beginning with the State Veterinary Division of Agriculture after graduating with a degree in natural resources. From there, Peterman took a position with the Office of Water Resources which was a more regulatory department looking to assess the environmental impact the water regulations were having on Narragansett Bay. Peterman worked on this successful initiative with the goal of classifying the bay as a federal No Discharge Zone, prohibiting boat discharge from being emptied into the bay. Work included grant writing, data collecting, water quality sampling. Peterman later served as the head of the Land Acquisition Program for the state of Rhode Island, digitizing the permitting process. She served as a liaison to applicants, zoning departments, and planning departments at the municipal level.

Peterman discussed how travel restrictions during Covid response measures inhibited her ability to perform at her most recent position, serving as a CA on Martha's Vineyard. Avery discussed the role of the CA to be versed in state regulations. Peterman recounted working on various initiatives in prior positions and how her work experience includes coastal concerns and portions of the statutes and regulations. Cremer asked Peterman about overlapping entries on her resume and stated a concern about her commute should she get the CA job and need to commute from RI to Sharon. Westman praised her knowledge base and work history as well and said he also wanted to address concerns about the distance of the commute.

Peterman gave anecdotes about why she is not concerned about the distance (her previous jobs required extensive travel). She praised the town's bylaws and discussed approaching people who are in violation any regulations. She also stated she is available for work as soon as possible.

**9:10 PM      Motion to Adjourn**

**Motion:** To adjourn  
  
Cremer moved  
Westman seconded  
Avery – Aye, Cremer – Aye, Wasserman – Aye, Westman – Aye, Barbera – Aye, Arguimbau - Aye  
6-0-0 (Motion Passed)