

Conservation Commission Meeting
Virtual Meeting
March 3, 2022

Roll call was taken of members and staff present included: Chair, Peg Arguimbau, Vice Chair, Meredith Avery, Keevin Geller, Stephen Cremer, and Alan Westman. Colin Barbera and Jon Wasserman were not present. Staff present included Josh Philibert, 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 7:30pm.

7:30 PM	Public Hearing	AOOC 12 Indian Lane DEP# SE280-0631 Inna Belenky Deck and Addition to Residential Home
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Original orders issued June 2021. Inna Belenky came before the commission with a proposed amendment to DEP SE#280-0631. The applicant would like to increase the size of the deck by six feet in length. The septic will not be affected and the material underneath the deck will still be built according to the same plan. The number of sonotubes will remain at 4 but the locations of each tube will be moved to accommodate the additional size. The deck will remain about 70 feet from the wetland line. All digging will be done by hand. It was agreed Philibert will perform a site inspection and if there are no problems, the commission will issue the AOOC.

Motion: To approve the project and issue the amended order pending the Conservation Administrator's site inspection
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Avery moved

Cremer seconded

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

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)

7:50 PM	Discussion Item	Bennett Snyder, Eagle Scout Candidate
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Snyder gave a brief description of his Eagle Scout Project, constructing a 500 foot trail off of Lakeview Street that extends to an outlook on the lake with two benches. Snyder led a group of volunteers from Troop 95 and the Sharon Friends of Conservation and received funds from the Conservation Department for materials. Members thanked Snyder and his parents for their efforts. The chair noted that the cost was agreed to be split between the SFOC and the Conservation Department. No set amount was recorded in previous minutes.

7:56 PM	Discussion Item	Stormwater Bylaw Update and Public Hearing Date
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A public hearing will be held to discuss proposed changes to Article ii of the Stormwater Bylaw. The hearing will need to be advertised for at least 2 weeks prior to the hearing date. Hard copies will be

provided to Town Hall, the Library, and the DPW. A digital copy will be available on the Conservation Department website. Members discussed scheduling and April 24th is the soonest a quorum would be available. Arguimbau updated members that she had asked the town administrator about enforcement authority, wondering if the Selectboard can delegate separate authorities between Article i and Article ii or if the Conservation Commission would be the Stormwater Authority and delegate to the DPW for matters pertaining to Article i.

8:00 PM	Discussion Item	Conservation Department Intern
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Members discussed qualifications and compensation for a summer 2022 intern starting May 23, 2022. Applicants will be notified by April 30, 2022. It was decided the pay rate would be \$18-\$20 an hour for a 30 hour work week for 12 weeks. Tasks would include reading site maps and GIS drawings, marking/upgrading/clearing trails, as well as working with lake activity and other office projects.

Posting language:

Conservation Intern

Sharon, MA

The Town of Sharon's Conservation Commission seeks a highly-motivated, organized individual to assist with office procedures and conservation projects, trail and conservation-land monitoring, field assessments, and water quality sampling.

The Conservation Department currently owns and maintains over 200 parcels in the Town of Sharon. The intern will work with the Conservation staff on both field and office tasks related to the management of these and other town resources. Office assignments may include the review of conservation easements and commission-owned parcels, preparing mapping for field assessments, assisting in drafting land management plans and field reports, and organizing and digitizing commission files. Field work will include inspection of conservation-commission-owned parcels, trail inspection and maintenance, assisting in land management, water quality sampling, and daily monitoring of water levels in Lake Massapoag.

Essential Duties

- Perform office and field work under the guidance of Conservation Department staff involving the monitoring and maintenance of Conservation-Commission-owned properties.
- Work will involve outdoor duties such as: trail monitoring, field inspections, and resource data collection.
- Physically able to work outside under all weather conditions and be able to lift and carry up to 40 lbs. across wooded terrain
- Performs other Conservation Department tasks as assigned

Essential Responsibilities

- Report to the Commission on site conditions and issues

- Read Site Plans, GIS Maps, and drawings
- Access to a cell phone and vehicle for daily inspections between sites
- Accountability and punctuality

Basic Qualifications

- Preference will be given to applicants pursuing a career/degree in forestry, land management, environmental science, biology, or related field, however all are encouraged to apply.
- Comfortable navigating outdoors
- Any conditional offer of employment is contingent upon satisfactory CORI report

Compensation and Benefits

This is a paid opportunity; compensation will be \$18.00-20.00 /hour for a 30-hour work week. The opportunity will span 12 weeks beginning May 2022.

Application Process

Click on the **Apply Now** button (strongly preferred)

-or-

Send letter of interest, resume, and application to:

Lauren Barnes
Assistant Town Administrator
Town of Sharon
90 South Main Street
Sharon, MA 02067

Applications without a cover letter will not be considered.

The application deadline is April 22, 2022. Candidates will be notified by April 29, 2022. The position is anticipated to start May 23, 2022.

Equal Opportunity Employer

The Town of Sharon is an equal opportunity employer. The Town of Sharon does not discriminate in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), national origin, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, membership in an employee organization, retaliation, parental status, military service, or other non-merit factor.

The Town of Sharon accommodates the needs of all physically challenged or disabled people by all reasonable means in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

8:12 PM	Other Business	Approve February 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes
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Arguimbau noted on the last page at 8:42 it should be “helped” instead of “held” and there needed to be a “seconded” after Westman for the motion.

Motion: To accept meeting minutes from February 17, 2022 as amended.

Cremer moved

Geller seconded

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

4-0-1 (Motion Passed)

8:12 PM	Other Business	Conservation Administrator Update
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Philibert updated members that Linda Berger from the Recreation Department has been discussing the potential relocation of the Community Garden to Lakeview Street with Community Garden members. No direct opposition was raised. Sustainable Sharon Coalition is also aware of the potential plan. The matter was taken off of the warrant for Town Meeting but plans are still moving forward.

Philibert met with Kevin Davis and Maria De La Fuente about looking for funding for nature-based solutions for watershed integrity and climate resiliency and a culvert on High Plain Street near Edgehill Road. He is also working with Peter Fletcher and Neil Price on pursuing funding for Great Cedar Swamp water control structure.

Philibert met with Chris Patrick and Koene Van Dijk to walk some trails on Rattlesnake Hill. Patrick is on the Town of Easton Conservation Commission. Arguimbau was in favor of upgrades to existing trails that would loop back to Borderland State Park.

Arguimbau updated members about the Planning Board meetings regarding zoning recodification and proposed changes to zoning bylaws noting there are upcoming scheduling public meetings on the matter to be hosted by the Planning Board. Arguimbau also invited members to comment on the Governance Study Committee discussion about whether to move from a three member Select Board to a five member Select Board.

8:24 PM	Other Business	Move to Adjourn
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Motion: To accept meeting minutes from February 17, 2022 as amended.

Cremer moved

Geller seconded

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

5-0-0 (Motion Passed)