

Conservation Commission Meeting
Sharon Community Center
September 5, 2019 - DRAFT

Peg Arguimbau, Chair, Jon Wasserman, Michael Donatelle, Stephen Cremer, and Meredith Avery were the members present. Alan Westman and Keevin Geller were not present. The Conservation Administrator, Greg Meister, was also present.

A sign-in sheet is on file in the office listing other attendees of the meeting.
Meeting started at 7:45pm

7:45 PM – Request for Determination of Applicability, 44 Harold Street

Restoration of retaining wall and removal of several dead trees.

Applicant was not present for the hearing. Meister explained the project, informing Commission members that the existing retaining wall needs to be rebuilt and that there are trees hanging over the existing home which need to be removed. Meister is Ok with moving forward with the project and to close the hearing tonight.

Motion to close the hearing
Wasserman, Cremer 5-0-0

Motion to issue Negative Determination

Office shall be contacted prior to any work beginning.
Wasserman, Donatelle 5-0-0

8:00 PM – Hearing Continuance - 990 Boston Providence Highway

David Johnson of Norwood Engineering presented for the applicant. With him were Joanna Hilvart, legal counsel and David Wluka, developer.

Johnson noted that he presented to the Commission a few weeks ago. At that time, it was decided to keep the meeting open as they were to be presenting the proposed development to the Walpole Conservation Commission and it made sense to wait for Walpole's decision. Walpole has issued an Order of Conditions for the project.

Johnson explained that 55 percent of the project is in Walpole and 45 percent is located in Sharon. At this time, the developer is trying to get a recommendation for a stormwater permit for erosion control and environmental work. Johnson asked if Commission members had any follow-up questions.

Arguimbau asked Johnson if he looked into moving one of the pipes further out of the buffer zone. Johnson explained that due to the elevation of the pipe, it cannot be moved and that its current position involves the least environmental impact to the area.

As the project progresses, the Walpole Conservation Agent will coordinate with Meister. Pavement will be removed on the Walpole side. The consultant for the project is working on a landscape plan which will include replanting of native species. The wetlands specialist, Garret Tunison, has walked the property with Meister reviewing the types of plants to be planted and discussing removal of invasive species. (Planting is on the Walpole side). The landscape plan will be

included in the Order of Conditions. The Order of Conditions issued by Walpole will be brought to the Sharon office by Wluka. Johnson noted that the roadway and driveway drainage will be serviced by a manhole. Meister will let O'Cain know all is set with the stormwater erosion controls.

Motion to close hearing:
Avery, Wasserman 5-0-0

Motion to issue Order of Conditions
Order of conditions will reflect the planting plan to be submitted and will be per plan.
Wasserman, Avery 5-0-0

Extension Plan, Norwood Municipal Light Department.

Meister explained that due to some logistical problems there has been a delay in the work.

Motion to issue three year extension to Norwood Municipal Light Department
Wasserman, Cremer 4-0-1

8:15 PM Notice of Intent – Hearing Continuance; Prince Way/Bay Road #280-0610
Construction of two cul-de-sac roads with associated grading, drainage and utilities

The developer has had favorable discussions with Stoughton about hooking up water. Perc tests will be performed. They need additional time before they are ready to present to the Commission and are requesting an extension.

Motion to continue hearing until notified by applicant.
Cremer, Donatelle 5-0-0

Lake Update

Last Tuesday (before the Labor Day weekend) the Health Department received several phone calls inquiring about potential blue green algae in the lake. Meister explained that typically, during this time of year, there can be blue green specks of algae in the water column. The Health Administrator went to the lake and took some photos of the algae located near the boat launch. She then forwarded the photos to the State. The State could not confirm that there was a blue algae bloom but reviewed protocol with the Health Administrator. The Health Administrator issued an advisory and took two samples of the lake water and sent off to a laboratory for testing. The results from that test came back at 410 cells per millimeter and 860 cells per millimeter of water, well below the 70,000 cells per millimeter recommended for an advisory to be issued. A second test was conducted a week later with similarly low results. Meister explained that it is always a challenge managing the lake but overall, things went well with only one high Ecoli count at the Community Center Beach, and this coming after that section of the lake had been closed for the season. Meister believes that there was no algae bloom and

protocols should be set for the future before issuing an advisory. A logical protocol might be to test for blue green algae **before** issuing an advisory.

Exercise trail at Deborah Sampson

The DPW had received several requests from sports teams who use the exercise trail for it to be “fixed” and for a better surface suitable for running. There were overgrown roots causing several injuries to runners over the past couple of years. The DPW conferred with the Department of Environmental Protection to put down reconstituted asphalt, and they were given the OK to use.

Neighbors and others however were upset, believing the reconstituted asphalt was dangerous to groundwater, causes health problems, etc.... They also did not like the change of a natural walking path through nature and claimed the path was wider than the previous wooded trail. Meister performed a site visit and photographed the path. He believes the current path to be primarily the same width as the previous path; it just looks bigger because much of the brush has been cleaned up. Meister said that perhaps the Commission should have had the DPW come in to present as part of the trail was within 100 feet of the pond on the property. Meister was asked about what product was used at Mann’s Pond.

New business

A local resident inquired about putting up bee hives on conservation owned land. Commission members don’t believe this should be a problem.

8:30 Request for Determination of Applicability – 44 East Street

Proposed gas service connection project to connect service to an existing single family home. Merrill Engineers is proposing the project. It is a residential service. Bordering Vegetated Wetlands are located at the back of the property. A silt fence will be erected to mitigate erosion. The trench method will be used, meaning only that material which can be excavated in a day and replaced will be done. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in one day.

Motion to close hearing

Wasserman, Avery (5-0-0)

Motion to issue a negative determination, per plan

Cremer, Donatelle (5-0-0)

Signature page passed around for signatures.

Community Center Road

A memo from O’Cain, Town Engineer was received regarding work to be performed on the roadway leading up to the Community Center. Arguimbau read the memo in its entirety. A sidewalk will be installed on the lake side. This is a public safety issue for walkers to the Community Center. Arguimbau spoke with O’Cain regarding the project. Originally, the proposal was for the sidewalk to go on the other side but the

lakeside proposal worked best. Meister explained that typically this type of work falls under maintenance and he does not make the applicant file. However, this project is considered new construction and the thought was for an RDA to be filed. Things are getting dangerous however on the roadway and DPW wished to move forward on the project. The consensus of the Commission is that the DPW should have filed an RDA. As this did not occur, Meister asked O'Cain to submit a limit of work and paragraph noting the work to be done. (the memo Arguimbau read). The roadway will be tilted back towards the road and not toward the lake. This is a tight project, so there will not be a shoulder. Some trees will be taken down. O'Cain is scheduled to possibly come in on the 19th of September, or will provide plans for the project. Meister noted that in years past he has asked for a list of road projects the DPW was planning, but he did not do that this year.

Open Space Plan

Berger, Recreation Director, signed letter written by Arguimbau. The letter will be sent to the Planning Board and Board of Health for comments. In addition, the letter will also be sent to the MAPC and Civic Moxie, and then forwarded to the State.

Meeting Minutes of August 8, 2019

Motion to accept meeting minutes of August 8th.

Wasserman, Arguimbau 2-0-3

Motion to adjourn

Cremer, Wasserman (5-0-0)

Meeting adjourned at 8.45pm