

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 23, 2018**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building (PSAB), Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Bill Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Chris Hayward (Director of Conservation)

GUESTS: Karon S. Catrone

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:33 p.m.

HEARINGS:

56 ROBINWOOD AVENUE – *continued* NOTICE OF INTENT (DEP FILE #234-812)

J. Bernardo opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. K. Catrone presented for the applicant/owners, Karen Schramm and Brett Holmes. The project is a single family home demolition and rebuild. All proposed work is to take place outside of the 50' buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands. One tree is proposed for removal within the buffer zone. Three flowering dogwood trees are proposed for replacement and are to be planted along the intermittent stream, along with other shrubs including lowbush blueberry, meadow sweet and Virginia rose.

J. Bernardo requested soils information in regards to stormwater infiltration. K. Catrone stated that the project engineer did not provide soils information but stated that the soils were tight. The plan is to direct all stormwater runoff to the catch basin located in the street in front of the existing house. J. Bernardo asked the applicant if a rain garden was ever considered for the property. The owners were not informed about rain gardens but were interested in adding this feature to their property.

W. Murphy asked if the owners have had a wet basement. That has not been a concern according to the owners. With that, the Commission agreed that there was conflicting information regarding the soils and believed a rain garden would be appropriate for the property. J. Bernardo stated that many abutting neighbors on Robinwood Avenue have infiltration systems so the soils should not be a problem. The owners agreed that a rain garden will be incorporated into the plans.

J. Bernardo stated that a condition will be created for inclusion of a rain garden in the backyard of the existing property. The owners agreed.

A. Crocker asked that the applicants provide more definitive information on the plantings including locations and distance from the stream.

Motion to close the public hearing for 56 Robinwood Avenue (DEP File #234-#234-812) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for 56 Robinwood Avenue (DEP File #234-#234-812) by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

BYLAW ITEM FOR DISCUSSION – ABUTTER NOTIFICATION FOR RDAs

This item was placed on the agenda for discussion as the State's Wetlands Protection Regulations does not require notifying abutters for Requests for Determination of Applicability. The Needham Wetlands Protection Regulations and General Bylaw Article 6 does require notification. The Commission felt it best to leave this item status quo with no changes being made.

OTHER

C. Hayward stated that this would be the last Conservation Commission meeting for him as the Director of Conservation for the Town as he has accepted another opportunity. He informed the members that he has enjoyed working with the Conservation Commission and many members of the Town staff. The Commission wished C. Hayward well in his future endeavors.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

September 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.