

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 27, 2019**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, Stephen Farr, William Murphy, Peter Oehlkers, Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist), Elisa Litchman (Administrative Assistant).

GUESTS: Tal Achituv, Jack Carnahan, Karon S. Catrone, Tony Del Gaizo, Sarah Finn, Kevin Narbonne, Ardi Rapi

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:30 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes from the May 23, 2019 meeting and the June 13, 2019 meeting were reviewed and amended.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 23, 2019 by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-1 (P. Oehlkers abstained).

Motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2019 by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 4-0-2 (A. Crocker and S. Farr abstained).

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS

None.

HEARINGS:

80 COUNTRY WAY (DEP FILE #234-835) – NOTICE OF INTENT

J. Carter Bernardo opened the hearing at 7:45pm. The hearing had previously been continued to allow the Applicant to provide revised plans and additional information to include: a review from a certified arborist for the proposed tree removals; a detailed planting plan for replacement plantings; stream data to confirm if the stream is intermittent or perennial; retaining wall details; and existing soil type details. Karon Skinner Catrone and Ardi Rapi represented the Applicant. K. Skinner Catrone presented the USGS StreamStats data for the stream channel at the point that it enters the property, citing the Wetlands Protection Act Riverfront Area definitions, stating that the stream is intermittent. K. Skinner Catrone also reviewed the proposed retaining wall details. Kevin Narbonne of Maltby and Company was present to review the provided letter that reviewed each tree proposed for removal. K. Narbonne discussed the methods used to assess each tree. A. Rapi stated that the plan was revised to only propose the removal of four trees within areas subject to jurisdiction, a reduction from the original seven trees. J. Carter Bernardo requested that the Applicant leave a snag of the cottonwood tree proposed for removal. The plan was updated to include 2:1 replacement of the trees, with the species and locations identified.

A. Rapi provided a hard copy of the revised plan sheet at the meeting. W. Murphy reviewed the soil information provided on the revised plan set and stated he was satisfied with the soil information provided. A.

Rrapi presented the revised plan, stating that the Applicant has no longer proposed pervious pavers for the driveway, but asphalt instead. Accordingly, the layout of the driveway was revised to reduce the proposed footprint of paving and a third underground infiltration chamber was added to capture runoff from the driveway area. The updated runoff infiltration calculations were also added to the plan.

Motion to close the public hearing for 80 Country Way (DEP File #234-835) by S. Farr, seconded by W. Murphy, approved 6-0-0.

Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for 80 Country Way (Dep File #234-835) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 4-0-2 (S. Farr and A. Crocker abstained).

Motion to allow work within the 25' buffer zone for restoration planting at 80 Country Way (Dep File #234-835) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 4-0-2 (S. Farr and A. Crocker abstained).

Motion to waive the waiver fee for work within the 25' buffer zone for restoration planting at 80 Country Way (Dep File #234-835) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 4-0-2 (S. Farr and A. Crocker abstained).

OTHER BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION – WALKER POND

Members of the Walker Pond Watershed Association as well as Tony Del Gaizo, the Town Engineer, were present for the discussion. J. Carter Bernardo provided background information from previous discussions between the Walker Pond Watershed Association and the Conservation Commission. T. Del Gaizo stated that the Town is considering a bacterial treatment that promotes decomposition of excessive decayed vegetation within Walker Pond, but it will be dependent on the response and results from the treatment on a similar but smaller pond. J. Carter Bernardo mentioned that there have been discussions with T. Del Gaizo and the Tree Warden about establishing a rain garden and consideration of other stormwater management structures, and that discussions may be revisited in the next upcoming fiscal year.

Tal Achituv spoke on behalf of the Walker Pond Watershed Association. T. Achituv highlighted some of the recommendations made in a report on Walker Pond Lake Management prepared by ESS Group, Inc., in 2017. T. Achituv stated that nutrient loading may be coming from the septic systems along the private portion of Walker Lane, and that connecting to a sewer line in the private drive is a long-term goal. He also requested that the Town review Best Management Practices for any municipal discharge points around the pond, assist in public engagement with the Watershed Association to educate neighbors about watershed impacts, and consider dredging the pond. T. Del Gaizo stated that the sewer connection on the private way is outside the purview of the Town, and that it would have to be a private endeavor. J. Carter Bernardo stated that the Commission may be able to provide some support in educating and engaging the public. T. Achituv also stated that it may be helpful to have assistance in communication between Town Departments and inclusiveness in the planning process.

403 GROVE STREET (DEP FILE #234-833) – PROGRESS UPDATES

C. Hutchinson provided the Commission with a progress update on the restoration work being performed at 403 Grove Street. A pre-construction site visit had been performed by Staff and work has commenced. C. Hutchinson presented progress photos of the final grading after the leftover hydro-raking debris piles were removed and stated that six trees within the restoration area did not leaf-out this year and likely died as a result of the debris piles burying their roots. K. Skinner Catrone was present and commented that she had been hired

to compile a minor modification request to replace the dead trees. The Applicant will submit the request for an upcoming hearing.

SWEET WILDLIFE PRESERVE – FENCE

Staff has received inquiries from the public about the fence at the Sweet Wildlife Preserve along Central Street. The fence is currently falling apart and has become partially buried during sidewalk repair activities. C. Hutchinson presented photos of the fence in disrepair. Staff asked the Commission if they would be comfortable with the fence being removed. The Commission gave their support for Staff to move forward with the logistics to address the fence.

60 WILDWOOD DRIVE (DEP FILE #234-763) – WAIVER FEE

Staff noted that a motion for the request to waive the waiver fee was still outstanding for the Amended Order of Conditions that was issued in April.

Motion to waive the waiver fee for work within the 25' buffer zone for vegetative buffer plantings at 60 Wildwood Drive (DEP File #736) by S. Farr, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 6-0-0.

DPW MAINTENANCE – ROSEMARY BROOK

C. Hutchinson informed the Commission that the Department of Public Works had resumed work on Rosemary Brook to repair the channel walls. The work had previously been approved under the DPW Generic Permit (DEP File #234-630). Work is expected to be completed over the next couple of weeks.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by S. Farr, approved 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.