

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, July 25, 2019**

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

ATTENDING: Janet Carter Bernardo (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, William Murphy, Peter Oehlkers (arrived at 7:40pm), Alison Richardson, Debbie Anderson (Director of Conservation), Clay Hutchinson (Conservation Specialist).

GUESTS: None.

J. Carter Bernardo opened the public meeting at 7:39 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June 27, 2019 meeting were reviewed and amended.

Motion to approve the minutes of June 27, 2019 by W. Murphy, seconded by A. Crocker, approved 4-0-1 (A. Richardson abstained, P. Oehlkers absent from vote).

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS

None.

HEARINGS:

None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

REQUEST FOR MINOR MODIFICATION – 1421 CENTRAL AVENUE (RTS) (DEP FILE #234-811)

Staff explained the request to the Commission as the Applicant was not able to attend the hearing. The request included the mechanical and chemical treatment of invasive knotweed and bittersweet within Buffer Zone across the Recycling and Transfer Station site. The original permit allowed for the construction of three stormwater basins and the regrading and paving of a roadway and compost area, as part of a site-wide stormwater improvement project. The Applicant provided a proposal from Lueders Environmental, Inc. for the application of herbicides to treat knotweed and bittersweet after seasonal vegetation cutting by RTS Staff. Conservation Staff performed a site walk with Greg Smith, the Superintendent of the Recycling and Solid Waste Division of the Department of Public Works, to observe the knotweed locations.

Motion to approve the minor modification to 1421 Central Avenue (DEP File #234-811) by W. Murphy, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 6-0-0.

**EVERSOURCE'S WEST ROXBURY TO NEEDHAM RELIABILITY PROJECT (DEP FILE #234-799)
– CUTLER PARK MITIGATION PLANTING UPDATE**

Staff updated the Commission on the restoration area along the Eversource Right-of-Way at Cutler Park. Staff had performed a site walk with representatives from Eversource Energy, the Mass. Department of Conservation and Recreation, and the Dedham Conservation Commission to inspect the mitigation and restoration plantings. Staff noted that the planting areas in the Needham portion of the Right-of-Way appeared healthy and compliant with the approved planting plan.

TOWN FOREST (HORSFORD POND) SCOUT PROJECT (DEP FILE #234-832) – FOOTBRIDGE PROGRESS UPDATE

Staff was notified by the Applicant that the approved footbridge had been completed. D. Anderson and C. Hutchinson took photos of the completed bridge and provided them to the Commission at the meeting. A request for Certificate of Compliance will be forthcoming from the Applicant.

PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATIONAL WALKS

The Commission discussed public engagement and outreach opportunities. Staff mentioned that there may be outside resources that can be used for education, such as environmental models, and that there may be availability in the budget to host third party professionals to present topics including invasive species, wildlife, aquatic ecology, and others. The Commissioners discussed possible walks that can highlight Needham's open space opportunities as well as provide education on various environmental subjects. Staff will provide information on available resources to the Commission prior to the next public meeting, which will include a brainstorming discussion on public outreach and engagement.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by A. Crocker, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 6-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.