

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER
CARLY ROCKLEN

Norwood Conservation Commission
January 24th, 2024
7:30 P.M.

Present: Stephen Washburn, Catherine Walsh, John Gear, Peter Bamber, Joseph Pitti, Kelsey Quinlan.

Also Present: Carly Rocklen, Conservation Planner/Agent

The January 24th, 2024, meeting was held remotely using Google Meet and in person at the Norwood Senior Center, 275 Prospect St. The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:30 p.m. followed by a roll call and informatory announcement to attendees regarding meeting procedures.

Public Hearings (7:30pm):

1. 76 Prospect St., Prospect Grove Estates, *Notice of Intent*, Norwood No. 2023-06
Applicant: The Marion Group LLC. Representative: Dan Merrikin, Legacy Engineering.
Project Description: Proposed residential subdivision including roadway, stormwater infrastructure, and associated earthwork and utilities, in the Riverfront Area of an intermittent stream.

Attorney David Hern Jr. requested that the public hearing be continued to the next Conservation Commission meeting on February 7th, 2024.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue the public hearing to February 7th, 2024.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

Motion passed, 6-0 by roll call vote.

Wetland Issues and Updates:

1. **Trails Committee – temporary water crossings**

The Chair stated that this line-item would be discussed at the next Conservation Commission meeting on the 7th of February 2024, as an IDA was submitted.

2. **Update concerning Cooper Park design to facilitate access to sewer manholes and siphon**

Ms. Rocklen stated that she met with the DPW, Community Development, and the project's landscape architect to discuss what the DPW's needs were for the trucks to access the manholes. She stated that they reconfigured the park so that the trucks could gain access.

3. Proposal for NHS students to produce a pollinator garden at Endean and/or raise pine saplings on other Town-owned land along the proposed Tiot Trail.

Ms. Rocklen stated that Mr. Joe Barrett approached the Conservation Commission about the possibility of projects for local high school students. Ms. Rocklen stated that she provided project proposal review to ensure that the projects would be sustainable in the long-term. She stated that Mr. Barrett proposed the construction of a pollinator garden at Endean Park and the growing of pine saplings on town land.

The Chairman stated that he was in favor of such proposals but wished to convene as a sub-committee prior to the next Conservation Commission meeting in order to discuss the proposals further. He added that the Commission members should consider establishing a master plan in order to combine the various proposals into one coherent strategy going forward.

Mr. Bamber stated that he was in favor of such a master plan.

4. Enforcement Order and Wetland Violation issued to 1125-1175 Boston-Providence Tpk.

Mr. Scott Turner, site civil engineer for the project, stated that this project was put before the Conservation Commission the previous March as an RDA, and a Negative RDA was issued. Mr. Turner, with the aid of visual site plans, highlighted the location and dimensions of the site in question. He outlined where the drainage systems were located on the property. Mr. Turner stated that in the last 20 years there was an order of conditions issued for the construction and expansion of a hotel. Mr. Turner stated that their project involves tearing down an existing building on the site and constructing a 3,000 square foot building in its place. He added that the impervious surface area at the site will be reduced by an acre, and infiltrated stormwater devices would be installed as part of the project.

Ms. Walsh asked when demolition at the site first commenced.

Mr. Benson stated that demolition began in late October, and that the reason the demolition process is taking a long time is that it must be conducted in a very specific sequence.

Mr. Turner highlighted on the site plans that they have installed a large stormwater basin located along Route One. He stated that as a result of the numerous episodes of heavy rainfall over the previous months, sediment has, on occasion, built up in the stormwater drainage system on site. Mr. Benson stated that the intention is to clear the stormwater basin of the sediment that has been discovered.

Mr. Turner outlined the plan to clear the stormwater drainage system of sediment and buildup, this plan consisted of extensive pumping operations. He presented recent pictures of the stormwater system in order to give the Commission members an understanding of its current condition.

The Chairman stated that although considerable effort and money has been invested in finding the source of the sediment, it is concerning that it has not yet been identified.

Mr. Turner stated that FM Global is taking this issue very seriously but added that this is a process that cannot be solved immediately.

The Chair asked if the lines were flushed as part of the cleaning process, as well as how much sediment was discovered in the basin.

Mr. Benson stated that the basin was not full, but that there was only 75% capacity inside. He added that the line upstream or downstream was not jetted at the time.

Mr. Turner stated that they will continue to work on and monitor the issue.

Ms. Rocklen stated that she appreciated the level of effort that was put into finding the source of the sediment and asked Mr. Benson and Mr. Turner to provide any relevant updates to the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Bamber stated that any time in the last number of years that the Conservation Commission have had a sediment problem, a water pump has been involved.

The Chair stated that they would be expecting more frequent updates regarding the site in question.

5. Rojo's, 83 Boston-Providence Tpk. – site visit due to complaint received by DEP

Ms. Rocklen stated that the Health Department received a complaint that there was wastewater from the vehicle wash entering Purgatory Brook. Ms. Rocklen conducted a site visit and stated that a few days prior to her visit the sewer main had backed up beneath the vehicle wash.

However, this was cleared. She added that the parking lot is very close to the bank of Purgatory Brook and there is a portion where there is no grass or brush to act as a buffer for stormwater.

The vehicle wash manager stated that he plans on planting the area in the spring.

The Chairman suggested signage to discourage further encroachment.

Ms. Quinlan suggested installing a berm at the edge of the parking lot to prevent stormwater from entering the brook, if the plantings don't solve the problem.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. CPC report

Ms. Walsh stated that the CPC has received the last two application presentations, and a meeting will be taking place on February 7th to start discussions about which ones are to be advanced. She added that there is a good mix of recreational, historical, and housing applications.

2. Minutes from 12/6/2023

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 6th, 2023.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

Motion passed, 6-0 by roll call vote.

3. Agent update

Ms. Rocklen stated that at Home Market Foods, she assessed erosion control materials that had to be replaced.

She stated that there was flooding at Upland Rd due to a build-up of leaves and branches at the culvert. The DPW removed this blockage, and the water was able to drain properly once again. Ms. Rocklen stated that work would be carried out at this intersection which will consist of a stormwater basin, road widening to allow for turn lanes, traffic lights, new intersection design.

Ms. Rocklen stated that there were reports received regarding pumping at the pond at the Norwood Commerce Center on Endicott St.

Adjournment.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30pm.

Next meeting: February 7th, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. via Google Meet & in person.

Respectfully submitted by Thomas Hackett