

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/ CONSERVATION AGENT

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.  
LYNN MARCHAND

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### Norwood Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes February 15, 2023 7:30 P.M.

**Present: John Gear, Carolyn Rocklen, Peter Bamber, Olivia Haglund (remote)**  
**Also Present: Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent**

The February 15, 2023 meeting was held remotely using Google Meet and in person in Room 24 of Norwood Town Hall, 566 Washington St. The meeting was called to order by the Acting Chair, Mr. John Gear at 7:30 p.m. followed by a roll call. ; Mr. Washburn, Ms. Walsh, and Ms. Quinlan were absent.

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The Board voted on the designation of an Acting Chair due to the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to nominate Mr. John Gear (to Chair the meeting.)**  
**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

*\*Public Hearing #3 was taken out of order and heard first to allow the applicants for #1 & #2 to arrive.*

#### **Public Hearings:**

- 1. Intersection of Upland Road and Upland Woods Circle.** Notice of Intent DEP No. 251-0541 Norwood No. 2023-02  
Applicant: ARE-MA Region No. 92, LLC                      Representative: Taylor Donovan of VHB  
Project Description: Addition of a traffic light and widening of lanes at the intersection of Upland Road and Upland Woods Circle

Ms. Jones said no substantial changes were made but that additional information was provided. She noted that the applicant was filing the application as a "limited project" and did not have to fully meet the bordering land subject to flooding standards. She said a waiver request was received that would reduce the no-disturb-zone under the bylaw from 25' to 12.5.' Ms. Jones stated that the applicant added the maintenance of the water quality swale to the O&M plan for the project. No members of the public had any comments.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the hearing and issue an order of conditions with the standard conditions, and a special condition of no cement washouts in the resource area or the buffer zone.**

**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

- 2. Intersection of Washington St, Upland Rd, and Prospect St.** Notice of Intent. DEP No. 251-0542 Norwood No. 2023-03 Applicant: MassDOT-Highway Division Representative: Taylor Donovan of VHB  
Project Description: Signalization & reconfiguration of the intersection of Washington Street, Upland Road, & Prospect Street

Representatives for the project were Ms. Taylor Donovan and Ms. Denise Kordosz. Also present was Ms. Courtney Walker from Mass DOT. Ms. Jones said additional materials were received including comment

responses such as “*not recommended to be done.*” She outlined some of the outstanding details and the request for a spec. for the stream bottom and dewatering plan submittal. Ms. Jones noted that the project would increase peak flow rates in some rain events.

Ms. Donovan reviewed the plan on the screen and clarified that there would be 18” of stone.

Ms. Walker of Mass DOT said that as part of a submission that they generally don't include specs. but that it shouldn't be an issue to require them as a condition. Ms. Jones said it was part of stream crossing standards; that the land under water should be typical stream material. She said the submitted plan showed larger material. Ms. Walker replied that they would have a variety of uniformly graded streambed material and noted that their on-call fluvial morphologist would make recommendations on the material to finalize the spec. Ms. Jones emphasized that the streambed material was what the Commission would typically review. No members of the public had any comments.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing issue an order of conditions with Norwood standard special conditions as well as a condition about no concrete washout within the resource areas or buffer zones and a condition that the Commission or their representative must view and approve the dewatering plan and inspect the stream bottom prior to implementation. Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

3. *\*Taken out of order (taken first).* **115 Norwood Park South.** DEP No. 251-05XX Norwood No. 2023-04  
Applicant: Frank Giglio of 1144 Properties, LLC Representative: Deborah Keller of Merrill Inc.  
Project Description: Building addition and parking lot improvements in the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland.

Mr. Frank Giglio gave a brief history of the property and described the proposed improvements to the vacant building, light poles, and the resurfacing of the parking lot. Ms. Jones said the parking lot resurfacing was in the Commission's jurisdiction, that there were no substantial changes (small reduction), and that the work was done and the lot was stable. She said the project would go before the Planning Board (PB) for the change in the parking. The Commissioners opted to wait for the PB approval before voting. The applicant discussed possibly putting the two parking spots back to avoid triggering site plan review by the PB. No members of the public had any comments.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to March 15th at a time to be determined. Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

4. **3 Edgewater Drive.** DEP No. 251-05XX Norwood No. 2023-05  
Applicant: E&F Realty Assoc LTD Partnership Representative: Alfons Koka of EBI Consulting  
Project Description: Creation and restoration of a detention basin in riverfront area, bank, and bordering land subject to flooding associated with Traphole Brook.

Ms. Jones stated that this filing was a result of a violation in April which involved the cutting and grubbing of a wooded area with the intent of reducing flooding on the adjacent parking lot. A portion of the bank of Traphole Brook was cut and a significant amount of sediment ended up in the brook. The site has been stabilized and a check-dam was placed in an area, between where soil was removed and the brook, in order to protect it. She said the purpose of the application was to create a permanent, permitted solution. She noted the plan included the addition of a forebay and removal of sediment from a portion of the marshy area in order to create a wet detention basin, similar to a wetland. Her review comment was that a wet basin was not appropriate adjacent to a cold water fishery; Chapter 2 of Volume 2 of the Mass Stormwater Handbook. She suggested keeping the forebay and replacing and revegetating the rest of the area (that was previously cut/grubbed and had soil removed) or the proposed basin needed to be designed to drain appropriately.

Mr. Koka of DBI Consulting reviewed the plan with the Commissioners showing the proposed improvements. He described the additional fill with a berm to maintain separation from Traphole Brook, the forebay outlets to provide additional water quality improvement, as well as the swales, catch basins, and check dam. Mr. Koka discussed the soil types, recharging, dredging down to elevation 88, and replanting with erosion control mix. He said the basin would drain within 72 hours with no ponding. He stated that he had read the review comments from Ms. Jones and discussed possible ways to provide the alternatives.

Ms. Jones said a web soil survey was not appropriate for a site level analysis of the soil conditions and that a test pit would be needed. She said the characterization of the soils as sandy and well-draining was disingenuous based on site inspections; she said there was always standing water and noted that phragmites and cattails were growing. She added that almost the entire proposed basin was within 100 year floodplains as shown on the FEMA maps.

Mr. Bamber suggested that Mr. Koka review Ms. Jones comments and alternatives and come back with a revised plan. He added that he would prefer not to have a wet basin. Mr. Koka said the O&M plan would help prevent the washout from happening again. Mr. Bamber disagreed.

Ms. Jones said the washout happened due to the area being cut and grubbed. She shared photos with the Commissioners of the soil conditions after the cutting/grubbing. Mr. Bamber said he was concerned about Traphole Brook which they had spent a lot of time and money on. Ms. Rocklen concurred and sited the restoration work that had been done.

Ms. Jones recommended keeping the sediment forebay and that Mr. Koka provide a restoration plan for the rest of the site. Discussion was had regarding the best way forward for the swale and the creation of substantial revegetation of the area that was cleared. Ms. Rocklen said all species should be native to this area. Discussion was had regarding the stormwater flow. Mr. Jones recommended eliminating the basin and letting the water discharged from the forebay area flow through a vegetated area/sheet flow into the brook. Ms. Jones said there was no previous basin; it was a wooded area. She said if it was built in the 80's, it was never maintained. She stated that the forebay would help with sediment removal but not with treating nutrients and also didn't provide flood attenuation. She said revegetation of the buffer zone would provide a greater benefit.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue the hearing to March 15th at a time to be determined.**

**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

#### **Certificate of Compliance Request:**

1. **59 Puritan Place.** DEP File No. 251-0344, Norwood No. N2004-08

Ms. Jones said the applicant has requested a continuance in order to complete additional work.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue to March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

#### **Conservation Commission Business:**

1. **Annual Report** -Ms. Jones said she completed the Annual Report and asked if the Commissioners had any comments or wanted to include any photos. Displaying the report on the screen, she reviewed the details.
2. **Proposed alternate meeting schedule** -tabled until all members could be present.
3. **Earth Day invitation** -Mr. Jones said Progress Norwood wanted to know if the Commission would like to participate in Earth Day on April 23rd; Commission Table. Ms. Rocklen and Ms. Jones said they could partner.  
Ms. Jones said they could recommend a clean-up day hosted by Progress Norwood for the Bernie Cooper Park.
4. **Endean Orchard Subcommittee update** Ms. Jones said the garden was being grubbed. She announced that the pruning workshop for the fruit trees would be on March 4th. She also informed the Commission that a plaque was ordered for the table as well as garden markers.
5. **CPC report** -passed over
6. **Agent update** -Ms. Jones reminded the Commissioners that the virtual MACC conference was coming up and said that she was asked to be on a panel on March 4th to talk about the dam removal project. She

encouraged everyone to email her with which workshops they were interested in attending. Ms. Jones announced the in-person Mass Land Conservation Conference happening in Worcester on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Minutes 1/18/2023** -correction of vernal overflow or flow

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve with any corrections by Carly.  
Ms. Haglund seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**Adjournment:**

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn.  
Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion.  
Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.  
Next meeting: March 1, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. via Google Meet & in person.  
*Minutes respectfully submitted by Lynn Marchand.***