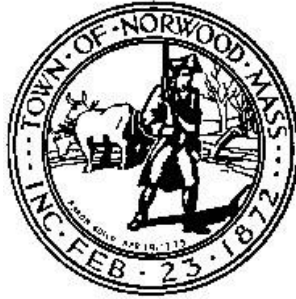


**CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN  
CATHERINE WALSH, VICE CHAIR  
CARLY ROCKLEN, TREASURER  
JOHN GEAR  
HEATHER MILLER  
PETER BAMBER



**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/  
CONSERVATION AGENT**

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

**OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.**  
LYNN MARCHAND

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**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2021  
7:30 P.M.  
Hybrid Meeting –Town Hall, Rm. 24  
& GoToMeeting <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/243297997>**

**Present:**

**Stephen Washburn, Catherine Walsh, Carly Rocklen, John Gear, Peter Bamber, Heather Miller  
Also Present: Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent.**

**The Chair called the meeting to order.**

**Public Hearings:**

**1. Updates to wetland regulations: portions updated may include but not limited to, Section XL Effective Dates**

The Chair opened the public hearing. Ms. Jones said it came to her attention with some recent applications that there was a section that makes the buffer regulations halved for lots that were created before 2003. She said that it may come to a point where people who had bought in 2003 would have the opportunity to develop them under the current regulations and it would make sense to remove that section so that all lots are treated the same.

The Chair and Ms. Jones reflected on possible reasons for the previous inclusion of that language and it was thought to be essentially to create some phasing/grandfathering before fully enforcing the buffer zone regulations.

Mr. Bamber said it was just the opposite noting that Norwood vs. other towns, has been built out for a long time He said there are a lot of really small lots in Town; properties that are already compromised. Prior to 2003 the town was already built-out. He cautioned the Commission to proceed carefully so as not to take away existing uses.

Mr. Washburn commented that the bulk of development is in a state of hyper-development and there's nowhere to go but up. He said almost everywhere in town, for the most part, is already in the buffer zones. He added that the buffer zones are one of the only lines of defense to preserving green space for passive recreation and other purposes.

Mr. Bamber commented that local bylaw is what the Commission sets it to be. He opined that it should be enforced at a higher standard for commercial but not the same for residential.

Mr. Gear asked if it would be possible to determine how many lots would it affected if they changed the language of the regulations. Other Commission members also wanted to know how many properties would be affected. Mr. Washburn also wanted to know the square footage that would be affected. He suggested adding it to the agenda in 2-4 weeks to allow time to perform an analysis so they can decide with a more informed posture.

Ms. Jones asked for assistance with GIS from Mr. Washburn.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue the public hearing to March 16th.  
Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.  
Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

**Potential Violations:**

**1. 1400 Washington St. –unpermitted fill and clearing**

Ms. Jones stated that Commissioners had performed a site visit 2 Saturdays ago. She said she had a verbal plan from Mr. Copponi about removing the landscaping debris that has gone over the edge of the parking lot into the buffer zone. He indicated to Ms. Jones that he would do native plantings/Arborvitaes, as a natural buffer.

Ms. Walsh said the proposal was appropriate. She added that there was clearly recent dumping despite that the owner claimed it was historical fill that he inherited. She suggested a fence until the Arborvitaes grow in.

Ms. Miller wondered how many cubic feet the Commission is asking to be removed and if there should there be stabilization required.

Mr. Bamber said as much debris as possible should be removed and agreed that a written plan was needed.

Mr. Washburn asked if an engineering solution was needed as the removal of the debris could cause destabilize of the slope. Ms. Walsh, who is also a civil engineer, did not think it would impact the slope stabilization. Debris is all leaf material and not a lot of weight and would be easy to do. Ms. Rocklen said there was other landscape and organic material (older dumping) and Ms. Jones concurred.

Ms. Jones felt as much as possible should be removed.

Mr. Washburn proposed that the next step should be to get a written commitment and clearly defined scope, including a timeline for the Commission to review. Mr. Gear said possibly including engineering to stabilize the slope if needed when removing the historical fill.

Mr. Washburn asked Ms. Jones to make Mr. Copponi aware of the Commission's recommendations.

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue to the next meeting at a time to be determined.**

**Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.**

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

**Conservation Commission Business:**

**1. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update**

Mr. Washburn said he received an email stating that the parties that have been contributing to the establishment and maintenance of the orchard are getting together on Sunday for introductions, to touch base with the friends group, to discuss an irrigation watering schedule, and the establishment of a more permanent irrigation solution as well as the remaining soil profile corrections.

**2. CPC report**

Ms. Walsh said the Committee had met earlier that day, approved 2 projects from the community housing category for a deed restriction in perpetuity (\$20,000) and a 1-year membership to the Regional Housing Association.

She said 2 projects out of the historical category were approved; a town hall architectural rendering preservation project (\$10,000) and the preservation of town reports (\$14,500).

Ms. Walsh said the Committee approved one project from the open space category; Sterns & Elliot pocket park (\$72,000). She noted that the Shattuck Park proposed project was not approved. She stated that the Committee felt the applicants didn't articulate what the study would include, and not enough community engagement with adjacent neighbors was performed. The Committee suggested to the project proponents that they provide more detail and conduct more community outreach if they wanted to apply the following year.

Ms. Walsh said the airport playground (for \$270,000) was not approved. The Committee felt that DPW/Parks & Rec didn't do enough groundwork in terms of getting some matching funding. The Committee suggested that they partner with another project and see about other matching funding. She noted there were other expensive projects in that category that were more prepared, with more partnerships, as well as more public outreach and support.

Ms. Walsh said the next meetings would be on March 2<sup>nd</sup> March 6<sup>th</sup>. Joe Greeley would be working with the Town CFO to establish partnerships and that they would go to Town Meeting in May.

**3. 150 trees for 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Ms. Jones reached out to Progress Norwood to suggest meeting up with 150th Anniversary group. Ms. Walsh said she met with a representative from Progress Now.

**4. Agent update**

Ms. Jones said the dam came down today. Ms. Rocklen joined Holly, funders, staff from ecological restoration. She said they had would create a viable stream bed in that spot, it was exciting to see, and the water was diverted and flowing around the dam and that there was not a lot of sediment, debris, etc. Congrats to the Commission for that project.

Norwood Community Media recorded it and NepRWA posted pictures on their Facebook page.

Ms. Jones touched briefly on the Orchard project stating that more mulch was left there and Mark Negron and Joe Greeley had started spreading it.

She asked the Commissioners to email her if anyone is interested in signing up for the 2022 MACC virtual conferences.

**5. Minutes 11/30/2021, 1/5/2022, & 1/19/2022**

**Motion: Ms. Rocklen made a motion to approved the Minutes with changes to the November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes on page two, the world wilding is replace with wild lands trust and in the January 19<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, the second to last page, bullet five it indicated that Holly would contact DPW as opposed to Carley.**

**Mr. Bamber seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.**

**Adjournment:**

**Motion: Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Next virtual meeting: March 2, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Location: