

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN
CATHERINE WALSH, VICE CHAIR
CAROLYN ROCKLEN, TREASURER
JOHN GEAR
PETER BAMBER
KELSEY QUINLAN



**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/
CONSERVATION AGENT**

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.
LYNN MARCHAND

**August 3, 2022
7:30 P.M.**

Present:

Stephen Washburn, Carly Rocklen, Peter Bamber, John Gear, Kelsey Quinlan

Also Present: Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent

Jeff Sullivan- Norwood Record; also recording

The August 3, 2022 meeting was held in person/Town Hall Room 24 & remotely using GoToMeeting software.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Stephen Washburn, at 7:30 p.m. who read meeting guidelines into the record followed by a roll call.

Public Hearings:

1. Off of Neponset St. and behind 290 Vanderbilt Street. DEP No. 251-0535 N2022-03

Applicant: Massachusetts Water Resource Authority Representative: Christine Walsh of CDW Consultants

Project Description: Repair and Maintenance of siphon structures and construction of an access road from the shoulder of Neponset St, and improvement of access road behind 290 Vanderbilt Ave. The project is in bordering vegetated wetland, riverfront area, and bordering land subject to flooding.

Ms. Christine Walsh and Mr. Mike Cunningham are here are representative. Mr. Cunningham states that since they were last present in front of the Committee there was a peer review of their plan and they responded to the reviewer's original comments on the plan. He states they were able to address the comments sufficiently and asks if there are further questions from Ms. Jones or the Commission. Ms. Jones states at the last meeting in July they did go over items that had been provided and a lot of those changes were helpful. One of the changes involved moving the standing area to 90 Vanderbilt and a decision to leave in place the metal plates going over the area that was identified as an intermittent stream. Ms. Jones states since that meeting in July the issue of the incorrect fee has been addressed and the signature of the owner at 90 Vanderbilt; Ms. Jones agrees that the response to the peer reviewer's suggestions have met the standards.

Mr. Cunningham summarizes what has changed within the project. He states they moved the staging area outside of the parking lot at the request of the property owner unto a crushed stone area. The peer reviewer did point out there was wetlands in the third site, specifically intermittent streams, so they will leave the area as is with no modifications. In addition, there was some construction and post construction monitoring requests. The Chairman asks Ms. Jones for next steps.

Ms. Jones put together a list of suggested order of conditions recommended by the peer reviewer. Ms. Jones lists the conditions; submitting a construction schedule to the commission, submitting planting plan for any wetland replication areas, making sure the flagging for resource areas remain in place, marking trees that are to remain prior to reconstruction, a clear limit of work that only resource areas approved is on the most recent plan set, construction reports (during all earth work and any rain event of .5 inch or more prepared by someone who specializes in erosion and sediment controls), providing for inspection of any imported materials, keeping any cement truck washouts outside resource areas and buffer zones, no use of pesticides, herbicides or fertilizer. Ms. Jones states one of the conditions is that wetland restoration areas should be monitored by qualified wetland scientist for a period of two growing seasons before a certificate of compliance could be issued.

No public comments or statements to be read into the record.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

Motion passes unanimously 5-0.

2. 1 Moderna Way, 200 Tech Drive, 1 Investors Way. DEP No. 251-053X Norwood No. N2022-13

Applicant: Massachusetts Water Resource Authority

Representative: Christine Walsh of CDW Consultants

Project Description: Repair and Maintenance of siphon structures and construction of an access road from the shoulder of Neponset St, and improvement of access road behind 290 Vanderbilt Ave. The project is in bordering vegetated wetland, riverfront area, and bordering land subject to flooding.

Representative is Mr. David Kelly. Mr. Kelly shares his screen with the proposed plans and gives background on the campus to the Commission. There are three buildings on the property- MTC North, South, and East. This proposal is the first stage of the security project. Mr. Kelly explains that more proposals will be in front of the commission in the coming year as they remodel the campus. The project is to essentially construct fencing on the property- the blue on the map shows the existing decorative fence, the proposal is to connect that fence to the orange line that shows the new 6-foot-high chain link fence that outlines the property. There is also going to be a temporary fence put in that runs through the parking lot.

Mr. Kelly states the remainder of the fence shown in red is the temporary fence installed in simple soil for the moment due to the fact there will be a second phase of this project that will create an updated fence in the same area that will be primarily decorative.

A small auger on a bobcat will install the hole for the fence posts and any remaining material will be removed by hand. The concrete will be in a ready-mix truck that will travel along the pavement put into the fence post hole. Mr. Kelly states all the work will happen from the upland side of the wetlands and the pavement. Mr. Kelly states that they proposed at Moderna's suggestion a series of bars installed on the box culvert that exists under the driveway to prevent people from crawling through the culvert; Ms. Jones was concerned that any type of caging would restrict wildlife passage and so Mr. Kelly went back to Moderna and revised their goals for that area. Moderna will come back to the Commission with whatever they deem appropriate for security but believes Moderna will look into installing a motion censored camera. Mr. Kelly states they will be back to the Commission for their permanent security areas. There are two kiosks on the plan that are temporary sheds that is set directly on the pavement with no change to drainage or impact to the ground and those will be ultimately removed.

Ms. Jones states that she is fairly satisfied with the current plan, though she did ask for the fence to be above the ground 6 inches to ask for wildlife passage which Moderna was not comfortable with. The gates that are being proposed are being kept 6 inches off the ground. The plan meets the standards for buffer zones.

Mr. Gear asks if the design for cameras in the area is complete. Mr. Kelly states that the design is still under discussion and Moderna agreed to not install any impediment to wildlife passage to the culvert, with no grading of the culvert.

Ms. Jones recommends closing the public hearing and issuing an order of conditions. The main special condition for the project is that the cement trucks wash out what is likely to be used for the footings to the fence.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing and issue an order of conditions with the additional conditions outlined by Ms. Jones.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

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

3. Intersection of Pleasant and Morse to 83 Morse St. Norwood No. N2022-14

**Applicant: Boston Gas Company
Coneco**

Representative: Michael Toohill,

**Project Description: Bylaw only filing for completion of a gas main installation over Morse St.
Bridge providing service to 83 Morse St.**

Mr. Travis Miller is the project representative; he states the project was previously filed with the town, but the order of conditions has lapsed. The order of conditions for the order of Wetland Protection Act is still valid for another year but the local order of conditions has lapsed. They are refiling to complete the last part of the work that needs to be done, specifically the work that crosses the bridge. Mr. Miller shares his screen and the plan, highlighting they needed to talk to the town engineer to get approval for slight modifications and the approval from the engineer was not obtained until after the order of conditions lapsed.

Ms. Jones summarizes the project including that they had a wetland scientist on site and states she had conversations with the contractors about the best way to do the work on the river, both local and state orders were extended due to COVID, and work was not completed before the local order lapsed, she recommends reissuing an order of conditions.

No questions or submitted comments from the public.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions.

Mr. Bamber seconded motion.

Motion passed unanimously 5-0 by roll call vote.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Bond release for Pezwick Park Dam Removal

Ms. Jones states that the Con Com is the body that decides when the project is substantially completed in a satisfactory manner. Every check that has gone to Flynn enterprises has had a 5% holdback on every check and a bond held by a company that the town could pull to pay for any necessary work the contractor was unable to do. Flynn enterprises has requested the commission release the holdback money and the bond. There is one portion of the project (plantings) that must be done in the fall due to weather, but all the plantings have a 3-year warranty date. The project was substantially completed on July 8th and they received a punch list of items from Ms. Jones and the engineer to fix before completing the project and all items on the list have been addressed.

Mr. Bamber asks if the plants will be warrantied and if that part of the bond will be held for the next three years. Ms. Jones responds that the town can partially release the bond (\$1.3 million), holding the bond just for the value of the warranty on the plants that are to be planted in the fall (\$30,000). Mr. Bamber asks to confirm if those figures are known and Ms. Jones states yes. The Chairman asks for the wording of their motion and Ms. Jones states it would be to move to release the holdback money and the bond minus the value of fall planting and the warranty for all the plantings.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to close the public hearing and release the holdback money and the bond minus the value of fall planting and the warranty for all the plantings.

Ms. Rocklen seconded motion.

Motion passed unanimously 5-0 by roll call vote.

2. Bond release for hazardous material mitigation at CertainTeed

Ms. Jones requests the Commission pass over this item today as the applicants have not provided any supporting material at this time.

3. Alevizos Park Signage

Ms. Jones reminds the commission about the request from a neighbor to the commission to add signage to the pavilion to specifically prevent climbing. Ms. Jones looked at recent land use regulations and added some language in order to create a rough draft of a sign.

Ms. Rocklen shares she has learned it is most effective to give a more positive spin to signage and found some links to share with the Commission. She states if it's a negative you add the reasoning why. Mr. Bamber agrees with Ms. Rocklen. Ms. Rocklen has an example- negative descriptive- "Please don't go off the marked paths and trails in order to protect sequoias in the national park." The Chairman wonders if there is a succinct enough way that will fit on the sign and convey all the desired messages. Ms. Rocklen responds she has not done much specific thinking on the language but could do more research on it. Mr. Bamber states 'please help us preserve or something similar' would be more productive and the Chairman agrees, stating that the 'no, no, no' on the sign seems negative.

Mr. Bamber suggests revisiting this on the next agenda after everyone reviews and thinks about sign language and the Chairman agrees. Ms. Jones states she can work on trying to rephrase the signage. Ms. Quinlan asks if there are any town specific regulations we should keep in mind and Ms. Jones says she will check with the building department, but their regulations tend to be more about sign location and size, not language.

Ms. Rocklen recalls one of the residents' requests to ask park users to be respectful of neighbors and that it should also be included in the signage. The Chairman agrees that is important to incorporate. Ms. Quinlan states she likes the idea because the sign can be better than just enforcing the rules but can highlight that it is a conservation property and have some information about that as well.

4. Neponset River Watershed Report Card

The discussion starts regarding the Neponset River Watershed Report Card. There were three streams in the worst category and two were in Norwood- Germany and Meadow Brook. Ms. Jones reached out to the river restoration coordinator at NepRWA, and he offered to come and talk to the Commission about suggestions for the waterways in September.

The Chairman finds the results very alarming, and Mr. Bamber states that the brooks have been failing for many years frankly. Mr. Bamber states the town has spent a lot of money specifically in Meadow Brook and has never seen much improvement and Germany Brook potentially fails because it flows by the old landfill. He suggests having NepRWA come and give recommendations to the Commission.

Ms. Rocklen looked at the specific data and saw specific pH and dissolved oxygen levels in the brook and asks if this is from cracked pipes or sewage. The Chairman also saw that problem and states there is testing to be done that will let us know if the e-coli is from animal or human waste, which all starts to fall under the MS-4 permit. Mr. Bamber states the town has re-lined sewers and there is a belief that buildings with old stormwater systems or leaks in old sewers in the old buildings may contribute to the issue and the town has looked extensively at them and have come up short for Meadow Brook. Germany Brook goes right through the old landfill and Mr. Bamber suggests looking at that because it might be pet waste or a problem with an old home, up north of Winter Street.

Ms. Rocklen states optical brightening testing was being done at NepWRA when she used to work there, and they could have that data still. It also goes by sport fields, specifically right near the Willet that could contribute to the runoff. Mr. Gear would like to get more information on the topic and see if there is a possibility there is E. coli and phosphorous coming from the same source.

The Chairman asks Ms. Jones if the town directly or indirectly manages the MS-4 Program. Ms. Jones responds that it is a bit of both as the town DPW and engineering department do work with CDM Smith as a contractor to do a lot of the testing and mapping required but the engineering department is the permanent writer. The Chairman asks if Ms. Jones has the ability to review the sampling and Ms. Jones responds she has not been privy to that information, but she could certainly ask.

Ms. Rocklen states this would be a good opportunity for public education- how the streams were graded, what grade they got, and how individuals could prevent or help streams improve. The Chairman agrees educational mechanisms would be helpful. Mr. Gear agrees and states that several years ago he received a correspondence from a conservation commission on the Cape

and they were looking to outlaw certain types of fertilizer and though Mr. Gear is not for that he states that in the correspondence there was a lot of interesting facts about fertilizers that he shares with the commission, specifically that the suggested use often overfertilizes the yard.

Ms. Quinlan states she has also seen in other towns in lieu of yellow pesticide flags people have in their lawns something that looks similar that states pesticide free lawn and has a QR code on the back that links to a website that educates about the chemical impacts on water systems, making it more of an educational opportunity to those it interests rather than discouraging those who might not be interested in receiving that information.

Mr. Bamber states that the Committee needs to talk to NepWRA and determine where and how the problems are occurring and being put into the water. The Chairman agrees that the first step is to educate themselves and then transfer that knowledge to the community in multiple ways and that the commission is 100% interested in having that opportunity with NepWRA and Ms. Jones agreed to liaison with Mr. Ryan (Town Engineer) about MS-4 operations that could be contributing to the poor score cards.

5. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update

Ms. Jones states the ramp at the Orchard is completed thanks to the boy scout Charles. Watering has been happening by Olivia and many others, despite the drought everything is looking good. Ms. Jones has seen mostly apples and a few plums growing. The nitrogen fixing bushes never came to fruition in the Spring, but Ms. Jones will look to order those bushes for fall planting. The Chairman recalls there was limited availability anyway for the species they were looking for. Mr. Bamber agrees with all of that. The Chairman comments on the lack of rainfall and drought. Mr. Bamber states to maybe look at the drought conditions and see if it makes more sense to put the plants in next spring. Ms. Rocklen asks what species they are planning to plant as she forgets. Ms. Jones responds that they were looking at New Jersey tea, bayberry, and sweet fern.

The Chairman thanks Olivia since the last couple of weeks, things that have been harvested at the Orchard have been made available at the Norwood Food Pantry, punctuating the success of this effort.

6. CPC report

Ms. Catherine Walsh is absent tonight so no specific update. Ms. Jones states there is a CPC project coming to fruition that is interesting to members of the Commission, the Fire Bell is being moved Friday and while the crane is in service to remove the bell a falcon nesting box will be installed that Commissioner Gear has made the stand for. There were observations of falcons on the tower that were put in front of Ms. Jones and Ms. Sarah Bouchard by state biologists.

7. Agent update

Ms. Jones checks in with Commissioners about meeting format going forward. The Commission has a discussion, all members are flexible and after Mr. Bamber asks Ms. Jones if it is a hardship for her to continue leading in person tech and she responds it is not a hardship, but she would prefer to not be the only one in an in-person meeting, but the Commission decides to continue the hybrid environment- both in Town Hall and online.

Ms. Jones states there is also a ribbon cutting ceremony potentially September 29th for the dam removal project, as it is substantially done, and all reimbursements are in to the grant agencies. There was an invasive species removal day lead by NepWRA July 9th at the Bernie Cooper Park that went well as stated by Ms. Jones. The trail construction at the Ellis Gardens has been substantially completed with one more workday scheduled by the future Eagle Scout who has worked on that project on August 14th. The trails committee has also been hard at work clearing Meadows Street.

8. Minutes: 4/6/2022 & 7/6/2022

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve the minutes.
Mr. Gear seconded the motion.
Motion passes unanimously 5-0.**

Adjournment:

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn.
Mr. Gear seconded the motion.
Motion passes unanimously 5-0.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.
Next meeting: August 17th 2022 at 7:30 pm- hybrid
Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Haglund