

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN  
CATHERINE WALSH, VICE CHAIR  
CAROLYN ROCKLEN, TREASURER  
JOHN GEAR  
PETER BAMBER  
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## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/ CONSERVATION AGENT

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.  
LYNN MARCHAND

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**August 17, 2022**  
**7:30 P.M.**

### **Present:**

**Stephen Washburn, Catherine Walsh, Carly Rocklen, and John Gear**

**Also Present: Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent**

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.

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### **Public Hearings:**

**1. 835 University Ave Notice of Intent DEP No. 251-0537 N2022-12**

Applicant: Michael Sheehan Representative: Shawn Callaghan of Adent Group Project

Description: wetland and buffer zone restoration related to historic unpermitted clearing of vegetated buffer to a border vegetated wetland and intermittent watercourse.

The Chair opened the public hearing by reading the above information into the record. Ms. Jones said most of the Commissioners were able to attend the site visit where they confirmed wetland lines, current and historical wetland flags, current topography and layout of the site and where clearing had occurred. She noted that initially the aerial photography looked like there had been incursions into the wetlands but after the site visit, it appeared that the impact was to the buffer zone.

Mr. Shawn Callaghan gave a proposal summary and background.

He stated that work was done and there was historical clearing within the regulated buffer zones of the perennial watercourse and on-site wetlands but it was confirmed that there was no current property uses nor clearing conducted within delineated wetlands or watercourses.

Mr. Callaghan said that the plan submitted established a 50' no disturb buffer zone around all wetlands and watercourses and this would be demarcated with large stones or concrete blocks to protect those areas. The buffer zone itself would receive up to 12" of loam and topsoil and be seeded and planted with native vegetation. He said the north eastern portion of the property would be revegetated and converted from current open space to restore that area to vegetated buffer zone. He noted that there would be no impacts to existing vegetation.

Mr. Callaghan discussed ISO A and B (4,900 square feet) stating that these areas were not likely regulated and intrusion was not into these however that's what was used as the baseline for the restoration and enhancement area. He said they are proposing 8,000 square feet of wetland creation and enhancement for a 1.6 to 1 ration. He described the proposed work as excavating down to the hydric soils and adding up to 12" of topsoil and loam to support the proposed plantings. In order to preserve the onsite vegetation he said that would work from the existing tree line out to the 50' line.

The proposed buffer plantings would be seeded with the New England conservation/wildlife mix. He detailed some of the planting species to provide seeds and berries for insects, squirrels,

and songbirds. Those species included box elder service berries, sweet pepper bush, red osier dogwood, spice bush, and high bush blueberry. To provide wildlife cover and nesting opportunities and soil stabilization with speckled alder and dogwood. The proposed plantings would include 50 trees and 650 shrubs for a total of 720 plants.

Mr. Callaghan said the establishment of the 50' no disturb buffer zone would provide an ecotone which is the transition zone from wooded areas and wetlands areas into property which would increase the wildlife habitat value. He mentioned an earthen berm that would be created and vegetation for stabilization on the north eastern property line to provide screening and noise reduction to the residential properties adjacent to the property.

The proposed plans were shown on the screen for Commissioners showing the planting plan on an aerial background. On the NOI wetland restoration plan, the proposed buffer planting area of 39,808 square feet, the proposed 50' buffer planting area (tree line to barrier/boulders), the earthen berm, and the 8,000 square foot wetland enhancement area were shown on the screen.

Ms. Rocklen asked about the American Ash tree being substituted for another kind.

Mr. Callaghan talked about providing that kind for diversity. Ms. Jones said she had not seen a healthy American Ash tree in Mass in a while and agreed with Ms. Rocklen's suggestion to swap out the species. Mr. Sheehan said he would like to think about which native species that is comparable. Ms. Rocklen suggested oak. Mr. Gear and Ms. Walsh said they were happy with what was being proposed.

No members of the public had any comments. The Chair asked Ms. Jones for recommended next steps. Ms. Jones made a suggestion to close the public hearing, a revised plan to be submitted for the Green Ash, and administrative approval shall be required for Green Ash on the planting plans. Ms. Jones recommended approving the NOI with the standard conditions and she provided the Commissioners with the following suggested special conditions:

Buffer zone --at least 6 inches of screened loam or topsoil in buffer restoration areas shall be added to areas where 6" of O and A horizon soils are not present or are severely compacted -- approval required for substitution of seed mix from the specified New England Wetland Plants mixes Wetland Replication -- Wetland replication shall conform to the guidance set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection in Guidance - BRP/DWM/WetG02-2; "Massachusetts Inland Wetland Replication Guidelines". Soil amendments are used for the replication area should consist of a mixture of equal volumes of organic and mineral materials. These materials should be uncontaminated and should not include any woodchips. The organic material used should be well or partially decomposed. Clean leaf compost is the preferred soil amendment to achieve these standards. Mineral materials should be predominantly in the loam, loamy sand to silt loam texture range, with minimal quantities of gravel or rock. a) The name and contact information of the wetland scientist responsible for replication design, oversight and annual report submittal shall be forwarded in writing to the Norwood Conservation Commission office before the commencement of work. Design, oversight and subsequent reports shall be performed and prepared by a Professional Wetland Scientist (PWS), a Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS), a Certified Wildlife Biologist (CWB) or a qualified professional approved by the Conservation Commission or its Agent. b) Planting plans and data on vegetation to be used shall be forwarded to the Norwood Conservation Commission for approval before the beginning of wetland replication activities. Replication plans and narratives shall include details on grades, vegetation types and density of plantings and wetland soils c) The Norwood Conservation Commission office shall be notified upon completion of replication area grading and before commencement of topsoil placement and planting. The Norwood Conservation Commission may elect to perform a site visit to assess the progress. d) Wetland replication shall occur before &/or concurrently with wetland fill so that salvaged material (soil and any vegetation) may be

quickly transplanted to the replication area. e) Existing wetland topsoil and vegetation (where practicable) shall be salvaged from the wetland area to be filled. Salvaged topsoil shall be used to augment soil amendments in the replication area. Salvaged wetland vegetation shall be immediately transplanted to the replication area. f) An annual wetland evaluation report detailing wetland replication progress shall be submitted to the Norwood Conservation Commission on or before October 15th of each year until replication is deemed successful by this Commission. The annual evaluation report shall be completed by a qualified wetland scientist and shall include information on aerial extent of cover, percent species survival, individual plant species replacement, hydrology and invasive species presence, if any. A Certificate of Compliance for the project will not be issued for this project until replication is deemed successful by the Norwood Conservation Commission. A successful replication area shall be stabilized for at least two (2) growing seasons and is in compliance with the standards and definitions in the guidance document provided by Mass DEP unless otherwise approved by the Conservation Commission. An annual evaluation report shall not be required if the work has not commenced before October 15th of the subject year. g) A copy of the wetland replication plans and narrative shall be provided to the wetland scientist to oversee replication and to the contractor(s) to carry out the work. A copy of the wetland replication plans and narrative shall be made available at all times for review by contractors.

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions with standard conditions as well as (*special*) conditions specified by Ms. Jones. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously 4-0.**

**2. 1570 Boston Providence Highway. Request for Determination of Applicability DEP No.**

**N2022-15** Applicant: Douglas Vara

Project Description: Replace an existing paved parking lot in the riverfront area and buffer zone of Traphole Brook

The Chair opened the public hearing by reading the above information into the record. Mr. Vara said he would like to replace the existing parking lot (remove and repave) within the existing footprint. Ms. Jones said it is close to Traphole Brook, however, an in-kind replacement should be permit-able.

The Chair asked for comments from the Commissioners. Mr. Gear said it was a straightforward project as long as the conditions set forth are met. Ms. Walsh and Ms. Rocklen had no issues. No members of the public commented.

At the request of the Chair, Ms. Jones outlined the suggested conditions.

The suggested conditions were stated as follows:

- Place erosion controls within 2 feet of existing asphalt and that the erosion controls should be either a silt fence with straw waddle where the silt fence has been tied in at least 6" into the ground or hay bales to provide more of a barrier.
- Do not disturb any trees during the course of construction
- If any stockpiles are left overnight they shall be covered with a tarp or similar to stabilize
- Notify the Conservation Commission for an erosion control inspection prior to commencing work
- Parking lot extent must align with existing extent

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to close the public hearing and issue a negative determination of applicability with the conditions as outlined by Ms. Jones.**

**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**3. 140 Morgan Drive Notice of Intent DEP No. 251-05XX N2022-16**

Applicant: Home Market Foods Representative: Susanne Pisano of GeoInsight Project  
Description: Addition of an industrial wastewater treatment tank and 2 building additions along with a wetland restoration area related to a previous hazardous material release clean-up  
The Chair opened the public hearing by reading the above information into the record.

The Chair opened the public hearing by reading the above information into the record. Representing the applicant, Mr. Will Sexton of GeoInsight said the project consists of an addition of a 242,600 gallon wastewater equalization tank for settling of treated equalized wastewater and also a 3,000 square foot building for the associated wastewater treatment equipment, a new dissolved air floatation system to help treat the wastewater, and an 1,800 square foot addition for the refrigeration system for the cold storage at the facility.

Related to the wetlands restoration and the hazardous materials release during some routine catch basin cleaning, he stated that one of the vacuum trucks' lines let out hydraulic oil into a catch basin which subsequently released directly to one of the resource areas. He said they removed some impacted soils and in replacing the soils and the riprap below the drain outlet, they inadvertently covered too much of the resource area. As a result, he said there will be a 2000' square foot wetland restoration in the western area of the site, on the border of an existing wetland to push that out a little further to create 2000 square feet more resource area. He estimated that 20 gallons of hydraulic fluid was released from the truck itself with the majority being recovered with spill pads and absorbent materials. Mr. Sexton said they believe a very minimal amount was released into the resource area.

The Chair asked if the cleanup and response was immediate or if there were any events prior like a rain event. Mr. Sexton replied that the on-site contract hired to clean the catch basins was also the facilities remedial contractor so they just had to mobilize a second vacuum truck to the site which arrived approximately 2 hours later. He stated the incident happened circa Sept/Oct of 2021.

Ms. Jones said it was reported to DEP but not to Conservation. She said she found the information on the DEP website and then reached out about the wetlands impact. Mr. Washburn asked about the proposed restoration effort and if it was to remove fill. Mr. Sexton replied that since the rip rap had already been placed, they were proposing just to replicate about 5x the area in a separate non-resource area.

No comments from the public were made.

Ms. Jones said they were unable to close the public hearing until they had a DEP number. She stated that she had questions regarding the NOI application which she emailed the client. Mr. Sexton said he had received the email, had gotten the stormwater O&M plan for the nearest water features but is still waiting for the cut and fill table for the filling and compensatory storage and said he should have the other information shortly.

Ms. Jones asked that the plans show work in bordering land subject to flooding and needs to be reflected as a wetland impact in the NOI. Discussion was also had regarding showing the existing impervious and the proposed impervious.

Commissioner Rocklen asked about replacement of invasive species with native plantings, She noted that 3 were non-native and 1 of them was considered invasive; ilex crenata, juniper holger, and miscanthus sinensis. Mr. Sexton said he can discuss with the design engineer about substituting those.

**Motion: Ms. Rocklen made a motion to continue the public hearing to September 7th at a time to be determined.**

**Ms. Walsh seconded motion.**

**Motion passed unanimously 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**Conservation Commission Business:**

**1. Bond release for hazardous material mitigation at CertainTeed**

Ms. Jones stated that the Commission has a \$50,00 bond for an old NOI for CertainTeed, DEP File No 251-0497, related to a contamination cleanup. She said they are paying a bond company an annual fee to maintain the bond. They have requested that the Commission release them from the bond requirement as they have a CoC and the project has been closed out. Ms. Jones recommended releasing this bond.

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to release CertainTeed from the bond.  
Ms. Walsh seconded motion.  
Motion passed unanimously 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**2. Alevizos Park Signage**

Ms. Jones said she received suggestions from Ms. Quinlan for changes to the sign and displayed it on the screen for the Commissioners.

Mr. Washburn spoke positively of the updates, with the following edits: change "dogs" to "dogs", change "contains" to "contaminate", and change "containment" to "contaminate".

**3. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update**

Ms. Jones said the Trails Committee received a request from a local business to have a work day during the week with up to 50 people to go to Endean for weeding and trail maintenance during week of Sept 19th.

She said she was looking to use Cavicchio Nursery to order shrubs so the volunteers could do a planting day in September. Mr. Washburn noted that, that was the nitrogen fixing companion plants that were previously discussed.

Ms. Jones thanked all the volunteers who have been watering and noted that they have been also diligently using vinegar to kill the poison ivy.

She noted that the soil tests indicated that lime should be applied and suggested one of the volunteer days to add shelves and other organization systems in the shed. She said she would go to Home Depot to get additional lime and noted that another soil test should be done near the trees.

Ms. Jones reported that Mr. Mark Negrón is looking to do a wild edibles walk in September. She said he wanted to bring in an expert to lead the walk and in order to pay for the expert (approximately \$300), he was thinking of potentially charging, on a sliding scale, those interested in joining the walk. (\$10-\$30.) Harvesting will be minimal and the walk would be mostly educational. Mr. Washburn discussed alternative ideas for financing it so as not to deter individuals from participating. Ms. Jones said the Commission could sponsor the event. All Commissioners agreed. Mr. Gear commented that he wants to show resources in our open land and is amenable to the Commission sponsoring it. Mr. Rocklen advocated for ecologically responsible foraging and to be mindful of public health (no contaminants in the soil).

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to sponsor.  
Ms. Walsh seconded motion.  
Motion passed unanimously 4-0 by roll call vote.**

**4. CPC report -no meeting this month/no update**

**5. Agent update**

Ms. Jones participated in a survey of fish population at Traphole Brook, led by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, where the Commission had done the dam removal and restoration. She said the results were positive. She noted that the water was in the 70's (hotter than you want for Brook Trout) and the temperature was in the 90's. She said young Brook Trout were born that year in the stream, both downstream and also where the new stream had just been created. She said they found brook trout, large eels, and a type of catfish.

Ms. Jones announced installation of a peregrine falcon box on Town Hall tower. She said the next step is to get a camera which NCM has agreed to help with. She said it was outside wetlands but definitely conversation related.

[Peregrine Falcons Have Made Norwood Town Hall Their New Home | WBZ NewsRadio 1030 \(iheart.com\)](#)

Also discussed was a suggestion from a resident regarding charity car washes that happen in town lot and how to make them friendlier to waterways. Ms. Jones reached out to the Selectmen, who permit carwashes. One suggestion was to include a check box on the application for free biodegradable soap/phosphorus free. She noted that most of the carwashes take place in the Meadowbrook watershed which has elevated levels of phosphorus.

Ms. Walsh expressed concerns regarding oil and grease ad. She suggested possibly having inserts to catch it.

Ms. Jones said when washing a car (non-professionally) that one should try to get the runoff to grass rather than to impervious surfaces and into catch basins. Ms. Jones said she will talk to DPW regarding ways to put up barriers etc.

Mr. Gear proposed possibly getting information from the Neponset Valley Watershed and having the Commission start an educational program and include the information with the electric bill to get it out to residents. Mr. Washburn agreed and said he felt than many folks down understand the relationship difference between stormwater and sewer.

Ms. Jones suggested reaching out the Light Department to see a mailer could be included with the bills. Mr. Washburn suggested a digital flyer to eliminate paper waste and also many residents pay their bills online.

Ms. Jones said she received an mail from a resident on Monday saying that on the previous Thursday, Meadowbrook was running what looked like white/skimmed milk. Ms. Jones and the DPW/water/sewer were unable to track down the source. She reported that it's clear now. She expressed thanks to DPW for assisting. Ms. Jones said she saw pictures but still doesn't have a great sense of what it was unfortunately. Ms. Rocklen suggested using the Town billboard.

## **6. Board Business**

Ms. Jones said she signed the Commission up for a Norwood Day table again on September 10th. Ms. Jones said she would be there and invited Commissioners. Ms. Walsh volunteered. Ms. Rocklen suggested a town map showing parks and waterways.

Ms. Jones said the Trails Committee wanted to invite Conservation Commission on a couple of walks. She said the Commission approved some trail clearing and maintenance on Meadow Street, that the Trails Committee took on as well as the new trail loop at Ellis Gardens off Codman Road.

She said Mr. Greeley is looking to co-host, with ConCom, a trail walk on Meadow St with the public on August 27th at 1:30 and have folks carpool or park at the school a quarter of a mile away.

## **7. Minutes: 11/3/2021, 12/1/2021, 5/4/2022, 6/1/2022, 8/3/2022**

Ms. Rocklen noted the following changes to be made:

August 3<sup>rd</sup> -injunctive to negative/descriptive

May 4<sup>th</sup> -wooden to wooded, describing a parcel, 4th bullet CPC outreach

**Motion: Ms. Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes with edits.**

**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion.**

**Motion passes unanimously 4-0.**

## **Adjournment:**

**Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to adjourn.**

**Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion.**

**Motion passes unanimously 4-0.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:56 p.m.

Next meeting: September 7, 2022 at 7:30 pm- hybrid

**Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand**