

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

Norwood Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

November 2, 2021

7:30 P.M.

Present: Stephen Washburn, Catherine Walsh (remotely), Carolyn Rocklen, John Gear, Peter Bamber, Kelsey Quinlan, Olivia Haglund (remotely)

Also Present: Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent

The November 2, 2022 meeting was held remotely using GoToMeeting software and in person in Room 24 of Norwood Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Washburn at 7:30 p.m. followed by a roll call.

Public Hearings:

1. 140 Morgan Drive Notice of Intent DEP No. 251-0539 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 recapped the previous meeting discussion and stated that the applicant was working through the redesign of the basin/encroachment of the basin grading into the easement.

Mr. Sexton stated that a 1'-3' tall boulder retaining wall would be put in place instead of grading over the easement area. He said the compensatory storage area was redesigned to sit a little further north-east. He noted that both would be outside of the easement and that the wetlands restoration area would still be located in the same area as previously designed.

Mr. Sexton reviewed the construction details of the proposed boulder wall.

Discussion was had regarding the proposed wall and Mr. Sexton said he would check with the engineer regarding the slope and with DPW regarding the wall stability related to heavy trucks, excavators, etc.

Commissioners asked questions and had discussion regarding fencing, wildlife habitat, native replanting, removal of invasive species, monitoring by a wetland scientist, a planting plan, staking of the area, and a site visit with Mr. Campbell, Ms. Jones, and any Commissioners interested in attending.

Mr. Rocklen asked about fencing. Mr. Sexton said the basin would be protected by a permanent fence and there would be temporary construction fencing around the wetlands creation site.

Mr. Bamber suggested getting all the information so the Commission could make an informed decision.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue to November 16th at a time to be determined. Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.

Wetlands Issues and Updates:

1. 3 Edgewater Drive stormwater basin

No one was available to represent 3 Edgewater Drive. Ms. Jones said she spoke with them recently regarding an updated timeline for advancing the work, since there had not been any progress since they came before the Commission in June/July. She noted that the area had naturally revegetated and was stable.

**taken out of order due to the previous agenda item not having anyone present.*

2. Certificate of Compliance Request: 420-440 Walpole St. DEP File No. 251-0517 N2020-06

The owner's representative, Mr. Stan Glantz, gave a review of what information was given to the new owners including outstanding items, which he said did not include raising the grates of the catch basin. He discussed the site visit with Ms. Jones and he stated that raising it 1" would not significantly increase the infiltration. He expressed concern about the ponding and the liability during heavy rainfall, ground saturation, and icing/freezing in the winter. Mr. Glantz reviewed his correspondence with Bohler Engineering and said that everything was built in accordance with the certified plans. He acknowledged that Ms. Jones had hoped the islands would provide more recharge before overflowing into the catch basin but that the basin and islands looked that they were built in accordance with the approved plans. He summarized his request for a CoC and stated that the owner should not be required to go back beyond that which was previously approved. Ms. Jones clarified that she had asked that they provide a solution for infiltration but did not say that the "lip" had to be raised 1". She acknowledged that the design conformed to the plan but not the intent of the plan.

Mr. Stanz said moving or increasing the size of the islands would decrease parking spaces and would incur a large cost to the owner. Ms. Jones said that directing the stormwater through the soil before it gets to the basin does not require enlargement of the islands. Ms. Walsh said that it was built to the approved plans and didn't think they could ask that they be changed at this time. Mr. Washburn stated that the level of detail on the approved plan was insufficient to show whether or not it would be effective.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance.

Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.

(Ms. Haglund was offline/unavailable to vote)

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update

Ms. Jones updated the Commission on the work day held on Saturday 10/29. She said they had a good turnout; approximately 15 people. She stated that a lot of fencing was completed, planting of trees and shrubs, weeding, poison ivy spraying, and mulching including mulching of the companion plants so they wouldn't be mistaken for weeds.

2. CPC report –passed over; next meeting will be December 9th.

3. Agent update Conservation Planner and Agent, Ms. Jones:

Ms. Jones discussed two enforcement issues that had arisen. **taken out of order at the start of Conservation Commission Business.*

115 Norwood Park South

Ms. Jones said this was a building renovation and parking lot that was re-done. She shared pictures of the property with the Commissioners and stated that she had reached out to owner instructing them to put in erosion controls, schedule a site visit this week, and file an NOI for earth moving. She said the property owner denied earth moving activity

Ms. Jones recommended issuing an enforcement order for the erosion control and instructing the owner to prepare an NOI. She said if an NOI was not received, then a cease and desist order could be issued. Ms. Jones noted that the Building Commissioner was aware and would not issue a certificate of occupancy until Conservation requirements were met. She asked the Members to provide a vote related to the enforcement order that she prepared and to be signed after the meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to issue.
Mr. Gear seconded the motion
Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

8 Mill Pond Lane

Ms. Jones said one of the Commissioners contacted her regarding an area across from Pezwick Park, on Traphole Brook regarding the appropriateness of the dirt pile, the fire ring, and the chairs at the water's edge. She has been in contact with the owner regarding not mowing and weed-whacking the vegetation along the brook. She said the owner conveyed that they felt since they own the property that they should be able to maintain it. Ms. Jones showed a picture of the area to the Commissioners.

She stated that the owner said they weed-whacked and mowed to maintain their property, to allow the small trees that were planted to get sun, and that they were concerned about wildlife. Ms. Jones noted that for their project, the area needed to be revegetated with at least 75% native plant species to meet the permit conditions and that vegetation maintenance was required. She asked whether the Commission wanted to send a friendly letter or an enforcement order. She said the owner said the fire pit and sandy area were created to establish that that it was their property and not a public path. Ms. Jones stated she believed the sand was dredged from the river and outlined the problems that could result; could block vegetation from growing, it would disconnect the floodplain from the river, disrupting geomorphology of how nutrients work through the system, and could cause turbidity.

Due to time of year (past growing season), Mr. Bamber suggested a friendly letter.

93 Highview Street

Ms. Jones said a complaint was received regarding 93 Highview Street; that the owner dumped soil from a dump truck into the yard. During an inspection, she said that dumping of soil from a dump truck into the yard was observed and additional loaming and grading of the backyard. The owner stated that the compacted soil area was created for his vehicles and that he intended to hydro seed the area.

Ms. Jones said the area was in the riverfront of the Neponset, that there was a steep embankment to the river, and that the building was 200' away from the river but that all fresh loam is re-grading.

She said in the spring an enforcement order was issued to stabilize the area and to let the owner know not to do it again. The Commission suggested monitoring of the area.

Mr. Gear said it looks compacted like it was going to be paved. Ms. Jones stated that the owner said there is no intent to pave. Mr. Bamber said it seemed the intent was filling area closer to the riverfront. Ms. Jones said the owner said he intended to hydro seed this week.

Additional updates:

Ms. Jones said the Airport started construction of their big runway moving project.

She said that DPW installed the new Pezwick sign, 2 picnic tables, and 2 benches.

She announced that the issuance of the RFP for engineering services for Cooper Park on Tuesday and said she had a pre-bid Cooper park meeting on Nov. 3rd.

In follow-up to a question at the last meeting regarding the boulders on Brook Street, Ms. Jones stated that the DPW Director confirmed that the boulders past the 3rd house were new or moved but were not moved by the Town. She said they will be moved.

4. Commission Business

Ms. Jones updated the Commission on the successful work days.

5. Minutes 9/21/2022

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve.
Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed, 5-0-1 by roll call vote. Ms. Walsh abstained.**

Adjournment.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn.
Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:51 p.m.

Next meeting: November 16, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Location: Hybrid, GoToMeeting and Rm. 24/Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand