

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

**Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
November 3, 2021
7:30 P.M.**

Present:

Stephen Washburn, Catherine Walsh, Carly Rocklen, John Gear, Peter Bamber, Heather Miller

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

The November 3, 2021 meeting was held remotely using GoToMeeting software.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Washburn at 7:30 p.m. followed by a roll call.

Public Hearings:

1. 87 Plantation Circle Notice of Intent No. 251-0531 N2021-14
Applicant: Daniel Cook Representative: Mitch Maslanka, Goddard Consulting, LLC
Project Description: The addition of a 2-story garage, back deck, and front and rear porches within buffer zone to bordering vegetated wetlands.

A request has been received to continue this item to 11/17/2021

Ms. Jones add that they also requested a site visit, and she will send out a Doodle for Commissioners to see when that will be held.

Motion: Ms. Bamber made a motion to continue this item.

Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.

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

Wetland Issues and Updates:

1. CoC request: Brook St. lot 3 DEP No. 251-0510 Norwood #2019-09

Mr. Glossa is the person responsible for the request. Mr. Glossa states he submitted this in writing, but he had surveyors do a survey of the as built conditions and viewed the site. He states that it is his opinion lot 3 and all the sites are following the conditions required. Ms. Jones states that Lot 3 is closest to Nichols Street and Mr. Glossa did a final inspection with the building inspector Ms. Jones met with to make sure all heights were correct. Ms. Jones has received a comment from a neighbor on Nichols Street who believes the lots are contributing to extra water in her own yard. Ms. Jones states that the neighbor's house is on a wetland plot and that the plots were built to regulation.

Ms. Rocklen asks about a rain garden installation that was discussed at previous meetings regarding one of the lots. The rain garden discussion was separate from the lot permits but was being discussed at the same time stated by Ms. Jones.

Ms. Jones recommends a CoC be issued.

**Motion: Ms. Bamber made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for Lot 3.
Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

2. CoC Request Brook St. lot 4 DEP No. 251-0511 Norwood #2019-10

Mr. Glossa states as the owner of Lot 4 it is his opinion that Lot 4 is in substantial compliance with the orders of condition written for Lot 4. Ms. Jones agrees.

**Motion: Ms. Bamber made a motion to issue a Certification of Compliance for Lot 4
Mr. Gear seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

3. CoC Request Brook St. lot 5 DEP No. 251-0512 Norwood #2019-01

Mr. Glossa states as the owner of Lot 5 he has the same comments as he had for Lot 3 and 4. He states they installed four concrete mounds with a plaque that informs future owners that the area downhill of the property is owned by the Conservation Commission and there is to be no dumping or alterations of the site. Ms. Jones states there are two minor differences on the site from what was proposed- the driveway is a slightly different shape (still outside 25" no disturb) and footings were constructed under cantilever deck (outside 50" no structure line) but different than plans. Two lines of planters were also done to show land markers.

Mr. Gear asks if the part of the cantilever deck closest to the wetlands has concrete piers into the do not disturb area. Mr. Glossa states there is not and that he realizes he did not explain in public hearing exactly the right way the deck was built, a portion of the deck is cantiled beyond the footings.

Ms. Jones recommends issuing a Certificate of Compliance.

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

4. CoC Request: RoJo Gas Station 83 Providence HWY. DEP No. 251-0513 Norwood #2020-01

No representative in attendance for the project.

Ms. Jones conducted a site visit and identified that the site was stabilized, and structures were in the correct place.

Ms. Rocklen states that she went out to look at the site and it appeared that there was no barrier between the parking lot and the stream, creating a water quality issue. Ms. Rocklen also noticed there is a water quality monitoring site and wonders what that data shows for before, during, and after construction period.

The Chairman asks if there was any proposed stormwater BMP between the buffer zone and the lot. Ms. Jones states that she is not sure, but they should make conditions for the site to have them, as there was evidence from Ms. Rocklen's photos that there was dirty water entering the brook which is a wetlands violation. The Chairman asks for more information about the sedimentary discharge. Ms. Rocklen elaborates on her previous statements, adding there was litter and dried sediment from the parking lot down the slope.

Ms. Jones recommends continuing the CoC request and directing herself to speak with the property owner and engineer to see if they can redirect stormwater through a basin or something similar.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue this CoC until the next meeting 11/17/21.

Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.

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

5. Communication: MWRA proposed work

Ms. Jones states she received a letter notification from the MWRA stating that they plan to do work that they believe is exempt within the Wetlands Protection Act for maintaining utilities if there is not a substantial alteration or enlargement. Ms. Jones read their plans and it appeared that one of their changes was a new access road in the flood plan and that is classified as a substantial alteration and is not exempt and they need to file.

Ms. Jones did a site visit with 3 MWRA representatives and they seem okay to file a NOI, though it will be complicated.

Ms. Rocklen asked for some generic information as she was unable to open the file and Ms. Jones gave information on the specifics of their plan and where their proposals are located. Mr. Gear asks if the impact will include not just structures, but staging areas and Ms. Jones responds yes.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update

The Chairman informs the Committee that the soil test results came back with the lab with mixed results. Some of the results had seemingly perfect soil profile, others had nutrient and ph need for supplementation. The Chairman also mentioned that it's important to remember that whatever is used in the soil for the Orchard will end up downhill due to rainwater and thus its necessary to think about how natural the solutions for the soil should be. The expired warranty on the trees from the state nursery is also no longer being pursued due to lack of contact.

Mark Ryan has agreed to provide 15-16 trees to the Orchard this fall. The Chairman suggests meeting somewhere in the middle from the original plan to have 60 trees to meeting in the middle with 30 trees total, 15 from the DPW and another 15 from conservation.

Ms. Jones pulls up the soil map with the GPS locations of where the samples were taken from. The Chairman suggests issuing a summary for all the proposed areas together to make it more convenient for volunteers. Mr. Gear asked if all the trees from the existing orchard had been cleared. The Chairman responded, stating the whole area had been mowed over. Mr. Gear asked if anyone had reached out to the Norfolk Agriculture school to provide support or expertise. Ms. Jones stated she contacted a teacher there and will follow up with her about potentially getting students involved.

The Chairman states that Mark Negron has started to make a schedule for the orchard, so he suggests proceeding with the DPW trees and match their trees with Conservation Commission money. The Chairman describes that the trees that are currently available are also much larger and have sustained more time in Massachusetts.

Ms. Rocklen recommended planning ahead with the application of chemicals and recommended not doing it if there is a storm coming. She also stated she has Paw-Paw trees in her backyard if anyone would like to see what they look like.

Mr. Bamber states that it sounds like a great idea to move forward with the DPW and other plantings. The Chairman also agrees, stating how important and crucial it is to be able to get things going, especially for Mark Negron and all his efforts.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to fund the purchase of up to 20 trees and any mediation needed to make the orchard plant ready.

Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.

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

Ms. Rocklen asks about tree species and how to engage with people who will use the orchard to make sure that people will harvest them. The Chairman agrees and adds they are considering also raspberry bushes and cherry trees. Ms. Jones states she will send the PDF around with species availability of trees. Ms. Jones will review what is recommended and what Commissioners are interested in having in the Orchard and get back to everyone.

Ms. Rocklen asks if there is a sense of what population will be using the Orchard. The Chairman references that Mr. Negron had information from his Fruit Tree Guild about what is highly and easily consumable.

2. CPC report

Ms. Walsh states that Joe Greely highlighted the structure was still up on University Ave and he participated in a walk around Ellis Pond with a gentleman in a wheelchair and how that area could be more accessible.

There was also discussion about a potential Eagle Scout project for the Ellis area. Ms. Jones states there is a field off Codman Street that connects into walking trails and the boy scout is proposing cutting a new section of the trail that would create a loop.

3. CPC application for Saint Street Park

Ms. Jones reports that Paul submitted a pre-application to the CPC for full funding of construction of the Saint Lot. The town treasurer, town manager Tony Mazzucco, and Joe Greely met with Paul and Ms. Jones to look at funding options; a bond was suggested to be partially funded from the CPC and the general fund. Full funding for the park is about \$1.6 million, Mr. Mazzucco suggested a 10-year bond that could be paid off.

Ms. Jones recommends having a joint meeting with the BOS committee regarding the park that she will set up.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to endorse the Saint Street CPC application.

Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.

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

4. Finance Update

Ms. Jones discusses having better lines of communication between the staff and the commission that was discussed in a meeting with a few of the commissioners and herself and Paul Halkiotis.

A goal created from the meeting was having regular reports to the Con Com about the budget-monthly or quarterly and Ms. Jones overseeing routine expenses. Mr. Halkiotis also mentioned meeting specifically for the beginning and end of the fiscal year as they write the budget during that meeting.

Ms. Jones gives a Mill Pond Dam, including its budget and the fact they had to cancel an outreach day due to poor weather. The bids on the project were originally too high but the program coordinator was changed and updated today, and she thinks MVP will be able to make up the difference and the project will be able to move forward.

5. Signatures

Ms. Jones asks how the Commission would feel about virtual signatures as they are still meeting virtually. Mr. Bamber thinks that is a great idea but what platform would they be using and would it have a cost. The IT department stated there is a free version of adobe that would work for virtual signatures.

6. Request for collaboration from Norwood 150th Commission for Earth Day

Ms. Rocklen states that a member of Town Meeting that the Con Com should consider distributing or selling 150 trees to be planted in Norwood that could tie into the 150th anniversary, potentially along Route 1 or fields. The Chairman states he is wondering if the DPW or Mark Ryan has any areas they know would need more trees. Ms. Miller states the Sustainability Committee is working on addressing hot spots but has not formulated a specific plan but is open to coordination.

Mr. Bamber asks if this planting would be on public land or private property, because DPW has a planting schedule. Ms. Rocklen responds stating that it would be a great idea to coordinate with DPW to help maintenance of the young trees. The Chairman suggests forwarding the concept to Mr. Mark Ryan to get his feedback. Ms. Jones suggests potentially creating a program where the Con Com donates 150 trees. Ms. Rocklen mentions a suggestion to look for donations of trees.

Mr. Gear references a fair he went to at Norfolk Aggie where they were looking for places to plant native chestnut trees they had grown; suggests looking into that and reaching out.

Ms. Jones will reach out to Mark Ryan about both ideas and see what he thinks.

Mr. Welsh from the Recreation Department also reached out about being involved with an Earth Day activity with them and Project Norwood. Mr. Welsh will get back to Con Com with more specifics.

7. Minutes 7/21/2021, 8/4/2021, 8/18/2021, & 9/1/2021

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to approve the minutes from 7/21/2021. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.

Motion: Ms. Walsh made a motion to approve the minutes from 8/4/2021. Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to approve the minutes for 8/18/2021. Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to approve the minutes. For 9/1/2021 Mr. Bamber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.

Adjournment:

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:07 p.m.
Respectfully Submitted by Olivia Haglund.