

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN
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CAROLYN ROCKLEN, TREASURER
JOHN GEAR
PETER BAMBER
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OLIVIA HAGLUND



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/ CONSERVATION AGENT

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.
LYNN MARCHAND

Norwood Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes December 7, 2021 7:30 P.M.

Present: Stephen Washburn, Carolyn Rocklen, John Gear (remote), Kelsey Quinlan, Olivia Haglund

Also Present: Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent

The December 7, 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

Mr. Sexton of GeoInsight, Mr. Campbell of Level Design Group, and Mr. Calabrese of Whole Market Foods were present to update the Commission. Mr. Sexton discussed the previous site visit with the Commissioners, the revisions to the restoration plan, and the planting plan.

He stated that the wetland scientist had put together a wetland restoration plan and reviewed the modifications; the overall elevation in the compensatory storage area was reduced from 54' to 53'. He said the 3,866 square foot storage area would bolster the likelihood of the restoration succeeding. New England seed mix and existing plants would be used; also erosion controls, woody debris and boulders would be utilized to limit runoff. Mr. Sexton said the planting plan was extensively modified; 22 trees and 50 bushy shrubs were proposed, and New England Wetland Plants and Wetland Seed Mix throughout the 3,886 square foot area. He discussed the invasive species management plan via hand removal of species, and that the controlled application of pesticides would be employed. He said he had reached out to Planning and other Depts. regarding the retaining wall and was awaiting feedback.

Ms. Rocklen asked about the herbicide application; painted on rather than sprayed. Mr. Sexton affirmed that it would be hand applied. Mr. Washburn asked about the integrity of the rock wall in relation to heavy equipment that might be used to maintain the utility of the easement that it was adjacent to. Mr. Campbell of Level Design described the use of large rocks for the small wall, not great in height, and that the easement is the limit of the potential work area and equipment. He said the wall would be a structurally stable structure. Ms. Jones noted that, after the site visit with Mr. Campbell, she was more comfortable with the location and structure. Mr. Gear said all the Boards need to be satisfied before the Commission could make their ruling. Ms. Jones spoke with the Assistant Planner, and said the Planning Board would be comfortable with closing their public hearing if Conservation was satisfied.

**Motion: made a motion to continue to the next meeting on December 21st at a time to be determined. Ms. Quinlan seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.**

Wetlands Issues and Updates:

1. 3 Edgewater Drive –update

Ms. Jones gave a brief description of the violation history dating back to May 18th with the site experiencing drainage problems with their parking lot flooding. During the maintenance of a storm water basin, significant vegetation was cleared not necessarily in the same area as was shown on the original plan thus a new basin was created. She said it was done in a haphazard way where a lot of ground was left disturbed and not stabilized with a direct connection into Traphole Brook. She explained that the Commission had discussed the violation and that the owner required to get a survey to show the extent of what had been cleared, figure out where the basin had originally been, and then to put a plan together to create a more functional basin. Ms. Jones stated that since that time, the area had re-vegetated and looked like a marsh. She summarized the main issue as hay bales being the only thing blocking the runoff into Traphole Brook and stated that an updated plan was received late on Friday.

Representing the applicant, Mr. Alfons Koka from ABI Consulting concurred that the existing detention basin was discharging into the Brook. He described a proposed stone check dam installation, said that a contractor would begin work soon, and they would stabilize the slopes. He displayed the proposed plan and reviewed the check dam details, erosion control at the bottom of the basin, and the plantings to be done in next growing season as ABI was only retained late summer/early fall on this project. He stated that they would return everything to a good working condition as soon as possible.

Mr. Washburn asked several questions. Mr. Koka confirmed that it was all impervious surface/parking, and that there was a Cape Cod berm, catch basins that go into the drainage system that collects stormwater which goes into a manhole. He stated that water sheets towards catch basins and was being discharged into a "rogue basin" that was created. Ms. Jones said there were 6" PVC pipes that were discharging into the basin. Mr. Koka noted that they located and cleared them.

Ms. Jones said there was a 10' strip was left vegetated along Traphole Brook so shading was not significantly impacted. Ms. Rocklen asked general questions related to what the site plan was showing. Mr. Koka explained that water would go into the basin when it was completed and that no untreated water would go into Traphole Brook. He said he would recommend that the site be inspected and mowed a few times during the summer depending on grass growth.

Mr. Washburn said stormwater calculations were needed to see if it needs to be near the brook or if it could be pulled back. He expressed concern about the collection process and discharging untreated runoff.

Mr. Gear said an NOI for the scope of work should be required.

Ms. Jones said they could issue an enforcement order requiring an NOI and add a condition that required maintenance.

Ms. Rocklen pointed out that in order to protect the Traphole Brook cold water fishery and maintain the high quality of the stream that it was important to build the stormwater treatment project correctly.

MOTION: issue revised enforcement order, NOI file by Jan 18th, replacing rotting hay bales with stone check dam by Jan 4th.

Motion seconded by Ms. Rocklen.

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

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update

Ms. Jones said that Ms. Susan Clair of the Community Gardens wanted to expand at the Mylod Street Orchard; expand the garden row by 1 foot this year and another foot the following year (16' total). Mr. Washburn asked about the effects and if it could go towards the school side. Discussion was had regarding another shed, ironing out plans, and what the footprint of the expansion would look like along with all the existing features. Mr. Gear suggested meeting with Ms. Clair. Mr. Washburn said he would like to see a proposed plan.

2. CPC report -passed over

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

Ms. Jones gave a public goodbye to the Planning Director Mr. Paul Halkiotis and expressed gratitude for how much she benefitted from his mentoring and how conservation efforts had been benefitted; Bernie Cooper Park, Nichols St property purchase, pocket parks, CPC, MVP which was critical for dam removal, Green Communities Program and sustainability, zoning re-writes, more and better landscaping with native species, and that he had set up many projects for Ms. Jones. She expressed how much he would be missed and that they all wish him well.

Mr. Washburn recalled how he had given him a very warm welcome, was easy to approach, and always there to answer questions.

Mr. Gear commented that he was a good manager, incredible person, and everything public officials should be.

Ms. Jones stated that an NOI for repairs to low level outlets of Willet Pond Dam would be heard at next meeting. The site was of particular interest due to the impact to numerous wetland resources, hazard potential the dam poses to the Town, and the public safety component. Ms. Jones also noted the property was maintained by Conservation. She stated there would be a site visit coordinated with engineers if Commissioners wanted to join. Dates were discussed.

She announced that the engineering contract for Cooper Park had been awarded to Horsley Witten and there would be a kickoff meeting coming soon.

Ms. Jones also announced that the town would be transitioning to Google Meet for hybrid meetings starting in February.

4. Minutes 11/16/2022

Motion: Ms. Rocklen made a motion to approve the 11/16/22 Minutes.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Adjournment.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Haglund seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Next meeting: December 21, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Location: Hybrid, GoToMeeting and Rm. 24/Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand