

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/ CONSERVATION AGENT

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.
LYNN MARCHAND

Norwood Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

December 21, 2021

7:30 P.M.

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

Also Present: Holly Jones, Environmental Planner/Conservation Agent

Public Hearings:

1. 140 Morgan Drive Notice of Intent DEP No. 251-0539 Norwood No. 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

Representing the applicant, Mr. Sexton updated the Commissioners regarding the Planning Board's approval of the project. After a brief discussion, the Commissioners moved to a vote.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions as prepared by Ms. Jones. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Ms. Jones stated that she would issue the Order of Conditions next week and that after issuance there would be a 10 day period before construction could begin.

2. Off of Brook St- Willett Pond Dam low level outlet repair *Notice of Intent* DEP File No 251-05XX Norwood No. N2022-17

Applicant: Neponset River Landholding Association

Representative: Andrea Judge of Fuss & O'Neil

Project Description: Using a temporary access road from Brook St through bordering vegetated wetlands, slipline the existing low-level outlet pipes, replace low level outlet valves, install trash racks at inlets. To access the low level outlets for sliplining, the parshall flume will be breached and replaced after sliplining.

The Chair and Ms. Jones stated that there was a request to continue to the January 4th meeting at a time to be determined.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue to January 4, 2023.

Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Proposed Eagle Scout project-creation of "Manny Boxes" of lifesaving equipment at Norwood Ponds

Liam MacLean, a Life Scout and Senior Patrol Leader of 249 Norwood, gave a presentation of his proposal to build 2 boxes containing lifesaving equipment to be placed near Ellis Pond and Hawes Pool Ponds. He said that the boxes would contain life jackets, safety rings with 50' of rope, and extra rope. The anticipated completion of the project would be late spring/early summer.

Commissioners commended Mr. MacLean for his project choice and Ms. Walsh commented that it would also be useful during ice season. Mr. MacLean said he would be consulting with the Fire Dept. as well. He described the

dimensions of the Manny Box and how it would be installed, that the material and items would be donated, and that the Boy Scouts would monitor the box. Ms. Rocklen suggested monitoring of the boxes should include box repairs and refilling of supplies should they go missing. He said he would be anchoring the box to help deter theft and weather related loss. Mr. Gear suggested anchoring it to the existing guardrail and asked about signage. Mr. MacLean said there would be signage on/in the box.

Due to it being in a buffer zone and one of them being on Conservation property, the Commission would need to provide a recommendation.

Motion: Ms. Walsh made a motion to recommend these projects and for Liam to proceed with the Manny boxes. Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

2. Proposed Community Garden expansion

Commissioners discussed the Sunday site visit and what the proposed expansion would look like; not close to the orchard, close to the path but not a hardship. Ms. Susan Clare, Community Gardens Manager, discussed some of the challenges including not enough plots for all those that want to garden, finances since each gardener pays only \$25 and the fee being waived if a true financial hardship exists, fence damage during the drought from deer ramming it, that there are those that rely on the food from the garden, the fence needing to be see thru, the cost of the fence, repurposing extra fencing (for repairs, to protect the trees, and potentially other pocket gardens). She also spoke of the teaching, outreach, and benefits of fresh food including contributions to the food pantry. She requested 8-9 additional spots from the parking to the little league field and replacement of 1/3 of the vinyl fence. Discussion was had regarding the need for an immediate repair and the least expensive option vs a more permanent, sustainable solution at a higher cost. Discussion was had regarding possible funding sources (Conservation Commission budget, CPC funds). The Commission considered making the immediate repairs now during the winter when DPW has time to assist and then following up with cost estimates, funding, and a more permanent solution for the future.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to approve the expansion as proposed, 2 more rows. Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Ms. Clare and Ms. Jones said they would follow up with researching a more sustainable solution.

3. Willett Pond Access

Ms. Jones discussed boulders blocking a public way and recently added no parking signs in the Town's right-of-way. DPW and the Police Chief investigated along with Ms. Jones. The Town did not put the boulders there and a resident near the right-of-way had recently been before the Public Safety Committee requesting no parking signs but was denied. The no parking signs are down but the boulders have not been moved. There should be public access to the pond and Ms. Jones said that the Town Manager also agreed. The DPW sent a letter and the boulders will be moved by the town if the resident involved in putting them there does not remove them.

Ms. Jones said that while it is not Conservation land and is ultimately controlled by the Board of Selectmen, it is in the buffer zone of Willett Pond. She, however, recommended letting the other town departments involved manage the issue. She said that she wanted to update the board as open space is under the purview of the Commission.

4. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update – no updates

5. CPC report

Ms. Walsh updated the Commissioners on the submitted projects that are being evaluated.

The largest project entails the preservation of the Old Parish Cemetery. She stated that it was a 3-phase project with an estimated cost of \$695,000. She said they are seeking \$675,000 from the CPA. Ms. Walsh noted that it includes historic preservation, open space, and recreation. They are proposing fence replacement, reconstruction of the Washington St. Railroad Ave. entrances. She said it is a combination of hardscape, landscape, horticulture, and replanting. The sponsors are Mark Ryan/DPW and the Old Parish Preservation volunteers.

The next project was the annual town report; restoration and preservation/digitalizing. \$11,000.

The next project was the restoration and preservation of the Memorial Hall furniture. \$10,000.

The next project sponsored by the Town Manager was for the preservation (digitalizing) of a 1890 history and directory book. \$900.

The Norwood Housing Authority submitted an application for the McDonough Housing Complex for window and siding replacement. The project cost would be 1.35 million and they are asking for \$350,000 in order to allow the

Housing Authority the matching funds to pursue grants.

There was a proposed project sponsored by Veteran's Services that falls under Open Space & Recreation which involves a feasibility study for the Chapel Street Park (also called the Windsor Park). They are requesting \$75,000. She stated that there are only a few benches and that they wanted to do something more impactful for honoring the residents.

The last project is a Conservation fund transfer of \$10,000 from CPA to be tagged for open space procurement.

Ms. Walsh said that have 1.31 million dollars in applications and have approximately 2-2.7 million dollars in CPA funds. She said they have are in process of asking questions and setting up site visits after the first of the year. She stated it was the largest set of applications in all 3 areas that the CPC has received and that they are all meaningful.

Ms. Jones. 3 different watersheds---put some stormwater features. CR: kids and folks use that park

6. Agent update

Ms. Jones announced that the town was awarded grant from MAPC (Municipal Area Planning Commission for climate change resiliency grant to look at the stormwater design at the Savage Center and at the Cleveland School. She noted that they are in the German Brook and Ellis Pond Watershed. She said that it would help bring the design to 75% as well as conducting the public outreach element in collaboration with NepRWA. Ms. Jones pointed out that this was also very helpful since the Savage Center is an emergency shelter and it would be good if it was not flooded in a flood emergency.

Ms. Jones announced that the contract had been awarded to Horsley Witten Group for the full construction design, and building oversight for Cooper Park.

Ms. Jones discussed the tragic accident at Whole Market Foods which resulted in one fatality and one serious injury due to an ammonia leak. She expressed that her thoughts went out to the victims and responders. Regarding the environmental impact, she said that the Fire Chief and DEP seemed confident that it was unlikely to impact the surrounding environment. Gas is lighter than the atmosphere and disperses in dry conditions fairly quickly. On two days when leaking---environmental impact was mitigated.

Trails Committee is hosting its 5th first-day-hike on New Year's Day at 1:30 beginning at Norwood Animal Shelter on Route 1 North.

7. Minutes --passed over

Adjournment.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:46 p.m.

Next meeting: January 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. Location: Hybrid, GoToMeeting and Rm. 24/Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand