

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN
KRISTIN CAPEZIO, VICE CHAIR
CARLY ROCKLEN, TREASURER
JOHN GEAR
HEATHER MILLER
CATHERINE WALSH
PETER BAMBER



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/
CONSERVATION AGENT
HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.
LYNN MARCHAND

Conservation Commission Meeting April 7, 2021 7:30 P.M.

Present:

Stephen Washburn -Chairman, Kristen Capezio -Vice Chair, Carley Rocklen -Treasurer, Heather Miller, Catherine Walsh, and Peter Bamber

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

Please note the April 7, 2021 meeting was held remotely using GoToMeeting software pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A §18, and the Governor's March 15th Executive Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place. Although no in-person attendance of members of the public occurred, the town of Norwood made every effort to ensure that the public can access the proceedings in real-time via technological means.

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

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Endean Orchard Food Forest/Mulch Discussion

Mr. Mark Negron explained the sheet mulching process and provided photos for the Commission. He said the sheet mulching would lay down a foundation for plantings that would support the apple trees and would start the microbial process to enrich the soil, shield in moisture, and keep down the weeds. It was described as fertilizer, cardboard, and with woodchips on top of it. He said a trench is dug to define the border of the orchard and it will be seeded with a native plant; blue eyed grass. Generally it will take a year to enrich the soil. After that, support plants would be placed that would help the apple trees; pollinator plants, nitrogen fixers, mulching plants, and food plants such as berries. He stated they would use a fruit guild method of planting. *(A fruit guild is a planting method used in permaculture to create a mini-ecosystem that encourages disease-resistant, high-yielding gardens. Basically, it's a gardening technique that groups plants together in a way that increases productivity, reduces the amount of fertilizer and pesticides you need, and cleverly utilizes space.)*

Discussion was had regarding the sheet mulching and planting timeline options with the benefits of the different options, funding/grants, community involvement and corporate involvement, The Chair asked if there was a motion to approve the sheet mulching at Endean.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve and go forward. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. BY ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0 motion passed unanimously.

2. Proposed Germany Brook Trail Kiosk

Ms. Jones said the trailhead kiosks would be similar to the previously approved kiosk at Endean and will not be in wetlands nor disruptive to wetlands. She said the locations would be on Recreation Department Land and the other on Conservation Commission land.

Mr. Makana Guliaeff showed the Commission a PowerPoint presentation showing renderings of the proposal to build informational trail kiosks as part of an Eagle Scout project. Project specs: two post design, 4x4 pressure treated, ground contact timber for the posts, post holes will be filled with rock and dirt, shingled roof to protect the board, 4' x 2' 8" board with cork overlay, plexiglass board cover with lock in shadowbox style frame (4'4" x 3'), total height including roof will be 7'8" and the height from the ground to the board top will be 6'. He stated the proposed locations for the kiosks were near the Winter Street Path Crossing at the entrance and at the Father Mac's Soccer Field by the shed. The estimated cost is \$750 for both kiosks not including tax.

Commission members asked questions regarding the signage information and maintenance.

Mr. Guliaeff said he had partnered with the Trails Committee who would be providing the signage information. Mr. Greeley from the Trails Committee stated the Committee would take stewardship of the kiosks and detailed the signage information and intended uses. Commission members expressed positive support for the proposed project.

Motion: Ms. Walsh made a motion to allow MaKana to move forward with his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Bamber seconded the motion.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0, motion passed unanimously

Public Hearings:

1. 64 Puritan Place

Notice of Intent DEP file No. 251-0520, N2020-11 Assessor's Map 16 Block 1, Parcel 71

Applicant: Patrick McDonagh Representative: John Glossa of Glossa Engineering

Project Description: The proposed project is the construction of a single family home with associated driveway, utilities, and grading, in the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland and the riverfront area of an intermittent stream.

Ms. Jones gave a recap and highlights of the project including the house placement. Mr. Glossa reviewed the revised plans that were displayed on the monitor for the Members. He reviewed 4 options of the house location and discussed the pros and cons of each. He discussed the letter he submitted, Attorney Hern's letter which redresses the placement of the dwelling and the location of the two lots in relation to the buffer zone, and Attorney Hern's letter of considerations of practicable alternatives.

Commission members expressed appreciation over the helpful visuals that were provided. No members of the public wished to speak.

Ms. Jones stated that the Order of Conditions would be the same as the last single family home but with the addition of the Special Condition that was requested by the next door neighbors that should the Arborvitae landscaping be changed that they would be required to come back before the Commission. She recommended a Finding at the top of the Order of Conditions that the wetlands resource boundaries are not confirmed by the issuance of the Order since we don't have delineation information for where the stream is but only for where the wetland boundary is and that we are lacking the DEP data sheets.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for DEP file number 251-0520 and N2020-11 also including the Special Finding Notation on the Order of Conditions as stated by Ms. Jones. Mr. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0, motion passed unanimously

Wetland updates and issues:

1. CoC request: DEP File No. 251-0518, N2020-08, 937 University Ave

Ms. Jones gave a recap of the review for the request of certificate of compliance. She stated that 6 weeks ago there were concerns about the lack of stabilization at the site and some erosion around the constructed basins. She noted that since the weather had warmed up, the ground had unfrozen, and the asphalt plants had opened, they have been able to stabilize the basins and provide a clear path for water to get into the entrances of the basins. She said she was more comfortable recommending the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance at this time.

Representing the project, Mr. Luke Fabbri stated they had paved the three areas that were unpaved at the entrance to the upper detention basin, the seam between the driveway and the lower detention basin, and paved the catch basin in the eastern corner of the driveway.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. BY ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0, motion passed unanimously.

Conservation Commission Business:

2. Trails and land update

Ms. Jones stated she opted to keep this on the agenda as a place holder to have a closer working relationship with the Trails Committee and keeping one another apprised of activities. She also informed the Board that she met with a young man that had an interest in potentially putting in a bridge or bird-viewing platform along the German Park Trail close to the Father Mac playground.

She said she spoke with Mr. Greeley regarding lopping overgrowth on already established trail.

Ms. Jones informed the Commission of upcoming Earth Day cleanups in town being organized by Progress Norwood. She said one of the sites that may be spearheaded by the Trails Committee will be at the Saint Street Lot along with other sites. She encourage the members to get involved.

Sunday, April 25th from 10am to 12pm was the date/time noted by Mr. Greeley. Ms. Rocklen said there is a link on Progress Norwood for people to sign up. Mr. Greeley said there are two locations they are hosting a cleanup for: Westover Woods (Conservation land) and the area behind the basketball courts at the Savage Center formerly known as the Junior High North. He expressed the need for community involvement and discussed outreach and publicizing the events.

He also informed the Board that the main signage at the football field had been damaged; one of the posts was knocked over and broken and proposed using some of the \$4000 trails committee funds (materials budget) to repair/replace it.

Ms. Jones said that Mr. Greeley informed her that a structure had been erected on the University property. Brief discussion was had regarding the structure. The Chair asked for it to be added to a future agenda for a more in depth discussion. Ms. Jones said she is also working with DPW as the structure is on both Town land and Conservation land.

3. CPC report

Ms. Walsh gave an update on the two projects the CPC was working on; University Ave Trail design and the fire bell removal. She said they were hoping for monies from a grant that Ms. Jones had applied for to work on the University Trail design but said they could also fund it through CPC. She said they had tentative approval for funding for the fire bell removal. She said the work had begun. The bell would be temporarily stored in Lyman Place until the Fire Department could determine a final disposition for it. The next meeting will be on May 14th.

4. Agent update

Ms. Jones said she recently signed contracts for aquatic nuisance plant species management for Ellis Pond and Hawes Pool Pond and a contract for dam inspection at Ellis Pond.

She also shared a correspondence she received from a resident that had some concerns regarding rezoning and how it might affect the wetlands. Ms. Jones said that zoning is independent of wetlands protection and that both zoning and the wetlands protection apply equally regardless of the zoning of the parcel in question. She reviewed some of the details of the letter that she sent to the members.

Ms. Jones announced additional support that would be coming to their dept; Asst. Planner and an Administrative Assistant.

5. Minutes

Motion: Mr. Rocklen made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 17th with the corrections that were made (pages 4 & 5). Mr. Bamber seconded the motion.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0 motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion.

BY ROLL CALL VOTE: 6-0 motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:08 p.m.

Next virtual meeting: April 21, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand