

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/
CONSERVATION AGENT**

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.
LYNN MARCHAND

**Conservation Commission Meeting
May 18, 2022
7:30 P.M.**

Present:

Catherine Walsh, Carly Rocklen, John Gear, Peter Bamber, Kelsey Quinlan

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

The May 18, 2022 meeting was held remotely using GoToMeeting software.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Catherine Walsh at 7:30 p.m. who read meeting guidelines into the record followed by a roll call.

Public Hearings:

1. Off of Neponset St. and behind 290 Vanderbilt Street. DEP No. 251-0535 N2022-03

Applicant: Massachusetts Water Resource Authority Representative: Christine Walsh of CDW Consultants
Project Description: Repair and Maintenance of siphon structures and construction of an access road from the shoulder of Neponset St, and improvement of access road behind 290 Vanderbilt Ave. The project is in bordering vegetated wetland, riverfront area, and bordering land subject to flooding.

Ms. Jones said the applicant requested a continuation of the public hearing to June 15th meeting.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue to June 15th meeting.

Mr. Bamber seconded the motion.

Wetland Issues, Updates, and complaints:

1. Request for Extension for OoC 251-0503 84 Morse St. :

Mr. Smith, Norwood Eng., said they were asking for an extension of the OoC which expires in July. He stated this was for a previously approved auto storage in the back and construction of a ramp to enter the building. He noted the environmental waste to be cleaned up and delays at the NH facility accepting soil leaving the site. The permits expire in July. Mr. Smith said they are working closely with GZA and likely will be back with a modified plan of the cleanup. He said there may be a proposal to cap some of the site rather than trucking it out. He said they will need Conservation and DEP approval. Ms. Jones said there are two separate projects; the former bus lot which is completed and across the Neponset River, where remediation is continuing. She said there are no problems with either. She said the local permit can only be extended for a period of 1 year. She added that Mr. Smith would have to come back in a year for the local permit (permitted under the local bylaw) so she's comfortable with extending the state permit (permitted under the State Wetlands Protection Act) After discussion, the Commissioners said he could be finished with the project in a year but if not then he could come back to request an extension of both. There were no comments from the public.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to grant the one year extension. (local bylaw 7/10/2023)

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

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

2. 3 Edgewater Drive clearing and excavation:

Ms. Jones said this was placed under Wetland Issues since it is a potential violation. She said there was clearing of a historic detention basin which was built in the 1980's. The basin had become overgrown and forested. The management at the site wanted to restore it but proceeded to cut and grub the area, without delineation where the basin was, and sediment went into Traphole Brook. Ms. Jones said the area is currently stabilized with hay bales, blocking the flow and slowing down sediment before it reaches the Brook. She said there is currently a plan in place to present Commissioners with a request for a Determination of Applicability in June to outline further corrective action.

Representing the property was Mr. Kevin Sanders with EBI consulting who gave an onscreen presentation. Displayed was an aerial photo showing the detention basin (where it was). He said the owners wanted it to work properly; however, the contractors were overzealous with cutting. He showed photos of the erosion control issue and the saturated hay bales.

Mr. Sanders proposed replacing the straw hay bales with a rock check dam which will protect the brook while work is ongoing. He displayed a plan of the proposed work showing removal of siltation off site and restoration of the detention pond to its intended volume, replacement of straw hay bales with a rock check dam and rip-rap spillway, as well as revegetation of the side slopes with a combination of wetland seed mix and bushes that will hold the soil.

He asked that the Commissioners allow them to do a short-term remedy to protect the stream and then they would come back in June to do either an RDA for the site or have Ms. Jones go through the plans with him to restore the basin. He noted time was an issue; if they wanted to hit the growing season in order stabilize it before winter. Mr. Sanders said that would be rip-rap at the end of the pipes to prevent erosion and vegetation of the slope with wetland conservation grasses and different types of trees that wouldn't take over the area. He said they would remove the sediment at the bottom of the basin so that it goes back to the original elevations as developed in the eighties so that it works as it was designed to.

Ms. Jones recommended that delineation be done of where the basin was in the past and show much clearing has been done to give insight in how to deal with this matter.

Discussion was had regarding the RDA, maintenance of stormwater features, and protection of the resource area during maintenance. The Commissioners felt comfortable with Ms. Jones administratively approving the remediation work and having the applicant come back to Commission in June with an updated.

Ms. Jones updated Commission simultaneously on the next 3 agenda items (3, 4, & 5)

3. Dumping behind David Terrace, near Everett St. Conservation Land & Purgatory Brook:

Ms. Jones said the dumping is on property that is close to both Housing Authority land as well as land owned by the Commission. Trash is being dumped in the stream and there is a dam created by the trash. Norwood Housing Authority will post no-dumping sign at their property limits.

Ms. Jones sent letters to abutting streets informing them that dumping has been seen and is not allowed as well as alternate ways to get rid of trash. DPW will help with cleanup.

4. Storm Drain behind Willett School:

Ms. Jones said that Ms. Rocklen reported that there was floor wax that had been dumped into a basin. The custodian was dumping it on the grass and down the drain which drains into Germany Brook. DPW removed the wax covered grass and pumped out the catch basin.

5. 64 Puritan Place-clearing:

Ms. Jones noted a minor OoC violation at 64 Puritan Place which was cleared of trees before erosion controls and before a DEP file numbers were in place. She reached out to the builder and erosion controls are now in place and he's had a successful inspection. She advised him to create a construction entrance before any digging.

Commission: Ms. Walsh asked if Ms. Jones was comfortable with the actions taken. She replied yes and added that they are still working on getting trash out of David Terrace.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Mylod St Orchard/Food Forest Eagle Scout Project—Charles Resker:

Mr. Resker presented a slideshow of the Norwood Public Orchard Modifications, Troop Islington.

He said the project has two parts. The first is a kiosk modification; new laminated piece of paper with a tree map, what fruits they produce, and seasonality of the trees, and it's to inform citizens and youth of Norwood about the trees found in the public orchard. The second is the creation of a ramp and platform to reach the elevated shed to allow easy access to the garden shed so gardeners of all ages and abilities can enjoy the public land. He said that he and his dad would do the cutting, prep, and planning work and 3-4 Scouts that would assemble everything on site. He said the prep work would be going on until early July and the project would be finished mid to late July or earlier. He displayed a similar ramp that would allow for a wheel barrel. He noted the slow grade upwards. Mr. Resker also displayed a rendering of the kiosk modification. Commissioners spoke favorably towards the project. The Chair encouraged Mr. Resker to coordinate with the Trails Committee as well as Ms. Jones.

2. Proposed Trail connection at Meadow St.—Vic Babel:

Ms. Jones stated that she went for a walk on Meadow St. with Mr. Vic Babel to view the area he wanted to create a path extension on, to connect two existing trails as well as the trails he wanted to do maintenance on. She said he had mapped the trail using an app. and colorized it to show where the proposed connection would be located. Ms. Jones noted that a lot of the trail is wet; not a 4-season trail (summer and winter). She displayed the area of proposed work on the screen for the Commissioners which would connect a one-person-wide walking path following along deer trails without any tree removal and also marking the trail.

Mr. Babel said deer have been cutting trails through there for years. He stated that he thoroughly went through the existing trails and former roads and ponds, gave his vision of possibilities, and that he wants to loop the trails so no there would be no dead ends. He said he is looking to connect and tag the trails. Mr. Babel requested permission to make a path by hand-cutting small vegetation along the orange area shown on the map. Ms. Jones and the Commissioners expressed support for the proposal and suggested creating a 5-10 year plan.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve the extension of the trail of conservation land on Meadow Street.

Motion was seconded by Mr. Gear

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

3. Access Road at Pezwick:

Ms. Jones explained that at Pezwick Park where they're doing the dam removal work, that the contractor installed a gravel and stone access road which is about 12" inches thick and 12' across. It extends down to the edge of the project area where the dam was. She asked the Commissioners to discuss whether to have the contractor removal of it and restore the dirt trail, to have him leave it or something in the middle. Ms. Jones read DPW Director Mark Ryan's recommendation to pave the entrance and a gravel path 10-12' wide for a sewer truck; the trail is a sewer easement.

Discussion was had regarding the pros and cons. Ms. Rocklen, Ms. Walsh, and Mr. Gear said they would coordinate a site visit to view the area with Ms. Jones & Mr. Ryan.

4. Endean Orchard Subcommittee update:

Ms. Walsh said she was moved wood chips and Ms. Jones was sprinkling fertilizer and seed and that it looked great.

5. CPC report

Ms. Jones announced that CPC Articles passed Town Meeting and got funding. She said the Bernie Cooper Park was fully funded at the Town Meeting though she does expect that will have a reimbursement grant from Fed Gov't for 50% of funding even though approved at Town Meeting. She stated that the other open space project was the pocket park at the corner of Sterns and Elliot. Ms. Walsh thanked Ms. Jones for all the work she put in for the Federal Grant. She said that it may take a while to get funding but she said they will be able to start the engineering July.

6. Agent update:

Ms. Jones announced that the Personnel Board voted to reclassify her position; Conservation Planner N11, higher level of responsibility and wage. She said they will be wrapping up the Traphole Brook Dam dam removal by the end of the first week in July.

MVP will be able to extend to July, and she said it's starting to look like a stream.
She reminded the Commissioners of an event that they will be teaming up with NepWRA on Sat, May 21st.; Bio-blitz; inventory of life on-site at Pezwick Park.
Another project the Commission will be teaming up on with NepWRA is the invasive cleanup day at the future Bernie Cooper; Park on July 9th and possibly again in late summer/early fall.
She highlighted the 6.2 million from sale of Forbes Hill; Cosky Farm--available for open space purchase.
She said they teamed up with NepWRA for an MVP watershed wide flooding study, headed by Dedham.

Lastly, Ms. Jones gave a shout out and thank you to Senior work-off person, Kathy Sanford, who completed 105 hours of volunteer work required for the tax benefit but is still scanning conservation files, volunteering even though her hours are done.

7. Minutes:

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to approve April 20th.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

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

Adjournment:

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Next virtual meeting: June 1, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand