

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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



ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/ CONSERVATION AGENT

HOLLY JONES, MSCI

SENIOR ADMIN. ASSISTANT

LYNN MARCHAND

Conservation Commission Meeting May 5, 2021 7:30 P.M.

Present:

**Stephen Washburn -Chairman, Kristin Capezio -Vice Chair, Peter Bamber -Treasurer,
John Gear, Heather Miller, Carly Rocklen, and Catherine Walsh**

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

Please note the May 5, 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.

Public Hearings:

1. **512 Walpole St: Notice of Intent. DEP File No. 251-0522, N2021-16**

Applicant: David and Janet Haberlin

Representative: Karen Keegan, Guaranteed Builders & Developers, Inc.

The proposed project is the construction of a garage in the footprint of a previous garage destroyed by fire and adjacent driveway. The project is in the buffer zone of bank and land under water, and the local riverfront area of an intermittent stream.

Ms. Keegan stated the homeowners are proposing construction of 24' x 24' garage. She said there is an existing house, shed, and driveway on the Lot. The proposed garage will be situated 53.5' from the top of the bank of the intermittent stream, which crosses the south-westerly corner of the Lot, and 46.3' from the proposed limit of disturbance which will encompass a compost sock. She stated that the intermittent stream does not have an associated bordering vegetative wetland so the bank is the edge of the resource area. Ms. Keegan said one area will be restored after construction completion. She stated that due to the unique shape of the lot, existing structures, and a lot of ledge on the property, it does not allow for alternative placement of redevelopment. She reviewed construction details with the Commission.

Ms. Jones had no issue with the proposed project and commented that there would be a net reduction of impervious surface. She recommended the standard orders and conditions that included things like setting up site visits with the Agent and making sure that the site doesn't receive things like chemicals or over-application of fertilizer in the future. Commission members had no concerns or questions.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing and issue the Order of Conditions as outlined by Ms. Jones.

Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.

2. Short St and Washington St intersection: Notice of Intent. DEP File No. 251-0523, N2021-01

Applicant: Town of Norwood Representative: Daniel Cannata, VHB

The proposed project is the resurfacing and improvements including installation of a traffic light in the existing road layout at Short St. and Washington St. The project is in the Riverfront Area of Hawes Brook, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding, and buffer zone to bank and land under water.

The DPW Director, Mark Ryan, stated that Town Meeting had approved funds for the design and construction of traffic signals at the intersection of Short St. and Washington St. which was identified as meeting the requirements for a signal for safety purposes and proper traffic flow. VHB was hired for the design and that the construction would go out to bid in June for construction to start in the fall. Mr. Ryan described the proposed construction details.

Mr. Dan Cannata of VHB provided a presentation to the Commission narrated by Scott Brunner.

Ms. Jones said she did not have major concerns about the project as it will be in the footprint of the street, the layout and amount of vegetation would not be changing, and a small stormwater improvement from the deep sump catch basin. She suggested that the Commission might consider a silt curtain requirement for when work is near the riverfront area during the construction phase.

Commission members asked questions about hood details and the trees. Ms. Jones stated that they could include special conditions that at least 2 additional tree plantings be added to the plan and that all trees planted be native.

No members of the public had comments.

Motion 1: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing. Motion was seconded by Ms. Walsh. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.

Ms. Jones reviewed suggested conditions with the Commission via screen-share.

Motion 2: Mr. Gear made a motion and an Order of Conditions as outlined by Ms. Jones. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.

3. 8 Suffolk Drive. Request for Determination of Applicability N2021-02

Applicant: Ernest A. Boch, Jr.

Representative: Christopher J. Alphen, Esq. of Blatman, Bobrowski, & Haverty, LLC

The request is to determine whether the area and/or the activity of disposition of human remains in a home mausoleum falls under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Protection Act or the Norwood Wetlands Bylaw.

Representing the applicant, Attorney Christopher Alphen referenced MGL ch. 114, s. 34 and said that pursuant to that statute, the applicant was seeking approval, of a home mausoleum for the permanent disposition of a dead bodies or remains, from the Board of Health and that they required the cemetery proponent to have the proposed location reviewed by the Conservation Commission so that setbacks from surface waters, required by the Wetlands Protection Act, are met.

The engineer for the project, Matt Smith of Norwood Engineering, stated that it would be within 100' of the wetlands. Ms. Jones had done a site inspection to confirm that there would be no impact.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion of negative determination of applicability. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.

4. Willett Pond: Notice of Intent, Bylaw only. N2021-03

Applicant: Willett Pond Charitable and Protection Association, Inc.

Representative: Joseph Onorato, Water & Wetland, LLC

The proposed project is the implementation of an algae and invasive aquatic plant management program including aquatic herbicide treatment and monitoring. The Commission previously extended the Wetlands Protection Act Order of Conditions.

Mr. Colin Gosselin of Water & Wetland said they are proposing to treat select area of Willet Pond; the variable milfoil, the bushy pond weed, and hand pulling the water chestnut. He requested a 3 year extension to match up all the Order expirations to more easily keep track.

Ms. Jones said the program is in line with the treatment that has been occurring at Willet Pond over the past few years and will have a beneficial impact on the ecology. She said in 2019 the Commission approved similar treatment plans for Ellis Pond. She noted that the Bylaw allows a longer extension for ongoing maintenance projects at the discretion of the Conservation Commission.

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing and issue a 3 year Order of Conditions' extension (to the spring of 2024). Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.

Wetlands Updates and Issues:

1. University Ave Structure update

Ms. Jones said there was a site visit on Friday and that she spoke with Mr. Ryan of DPW about getting assistance to take it apart. Discussion was had regarding signage (no hunting).

2. 74 North Avenue potential incursion

Ms. Jones said during a walk with Mr. Greeley in response to a report of dumping behind the Savage Center. The lawn and fence are potentially on Town land (BOS parcel & a ConCom parcel). She informed the General Manager of the incursion. Ms. Jones said the next step is to have DPW survey the property line to confirm whose land the incursion/potential violation is occurring.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Regulatory updates -None

2. Trails update –Ms. Jones announced that they had another successful cleanup day over the weekend and she thanked Project Norwood for organizing the event.

She said they would be having 3 meetings for planning the Saint Street Lot; virtual meeting on Thurs May 20th at 7pm, June 29th, and July 29th.

Ms. Jones informed that Board that she, the Town Planner, and Ian Cook/NEPRA have been working on an MVP grant for the dam removal at Pezwick Park.

3. CPC report –no report

4. FY2021 and FY2022 budget report –Ms. Jones reviewed the budget details with the Commission and discussion was had regarding the remaining funds.

5. Commission Re-organization –Discussion was had regarding the Treasurer's position. It was stated that generally a reorganization should occur the first meeting after the Town Meeting.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to nominate Steve Washburn to another term (*as Chairman*). Ms. Washburn seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.**

**Motion: Ms. Washburn made a motion to nominate Kristin Capezio as the Vice Chairman.
Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.**

**Motion: Ms. Capezio made a motion to nominate Kristin Capezio as the Treasurer.
Mr. Bamber seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.**

6. March 3rd Minutes -None

**Mr. Bamber made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Gear seconded the motion.
Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 pm.
Next virtual meeting: May 19, 2021