

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
June 16, 2021
7:30 P.M.**

Present:

Stephen Washburn -Chairman, Kristin Capezio -Vice Chair, Carly Rocklen -Treasurer, John Gear

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

The June 16, 2021 meeting was held remotely using GoToMeeting software and in person at 275 Prospect St. Room 218-219.

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

Public Hearings:

1. Hawes Walking Path. 1261 Washington St Map 8 Parcel 1B-1

Notice of Intent 251-0525

N2021-07

Applicant: Town of Norwood Representative: Andrew Murphy, Norwood Engineering Dept.

Project Description: Construction of a crushed stone walking path connecting Washington Street to an existing path along Hawes Brook.

A brief statement was made regarding continuing the public hearing.

Motion: Ms. Capezio made a motion to continue the public hearing to July 7th. Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.

Wetland updates and issues:

1. CoC request: DEP file no. 251-0509 Norwood Light Department ROW

Mr. Dan Cannata from VHB stated that work in the wetlands and buffer zones were substantially completed. Ms. Jones confirmed the re-vegetation on her site visit on May 27th.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to issue the CoC for DEP file no. 251-0509. Ms. Capezio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.

2. Request for minor plan modification: 84 Morse St.

Mr. Smith described the property and said they were redeveloping the property according to the plan and wanted a minor modification to regrade-up so as to use garage doors for inside loading in the building and to add a sewer connection. He stated they would adhere to everything else shown on the plan.

Motion: Ms. Capezio made a motion to accept the plan change as a minor modification. Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.

3. Request for Extension: DEP file no. 251-0464, improvements to I-95 Interchange—last extended in February 2018

Ms. Marie Sullivan gave the Commission an update of the work, stating the final work to be completed consisted of final grading, loaming and seeding which was anticipated to be completed circa April 2024. She explained that they were 300 days behind schedule due to utility relocations.

Discussion was had regarding how long the extension should be for and how long of an extension they were allowed to grant.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to extend the Order of Conditions for 3 years from the expiration of current expiration date and tolling period. Ms. Capezio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Orchard/permaculture food forest updates and planning

Commissioners continued discussing potentially putting a shed at the orchard, working with Mr. Negron, who was planning to go on Sunday to look at potential locations. Ms. Jones asked if any Commissioners were interested in joining. Ms. Jones suggested that because the Commission was not meeting before end of fiscal year that they either okay a shed or delegate ability to okay it. Ms. Capezio asked several questions including about whether any progress had been made on a project budget and whether Mr. Negron would be joining that evening. Ms. Jones indicated that Mr. Negron was not present and that she had not heard further about a project budget.

Ms. Jones and Chairman Washburn spoke about an idea to form a subcommittee that could be more proactive about decisions related to this project

Mr. Washburn noted that the orchard was a large undertaking, which required consistent constant oversight, and perhaps a subcommittee could give it the attention and time it deserves. Ms.

Rocklen said she felt there would be better and more intensive planning with a subcommittee.

Ms. Capezio also spoke favorably towards the suggestion.

Ms. Jones said there are land management funds available up to \$10,000. Holly stated they looked at shed building companies that build sheds of X dimensions and the price range was \$5000-\$8,000.

Ms. Capezio Suggested seeking help from DPW with crushed stone or leveling.

Ms. Jones said she would reach out the Garden Club and Susan Claire to get comments regarding shed location and if there is an interest in utilizing it. She also said she would like to see someone from the Garden Club on the subcommittee. Mr. Washburn noted that the apple trees idea originated with the Garden Club and was then expanded into the idea for an orchard.

Motion: John Gear made a motion to authorize Holly to go through the procurement process for the shed. The motion was seconded by Ms. Capezio. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0, by roll call.

2. Regulatory updates:

The Commission reviewed proposed conservation land use regulations.

Mr. Washburn felt they should wait until all of the Commissioners are present. Ms. Jones noted that no changes would be made before a public hearing, on June 30th.

Ms. Rocklen asked about foraging of plants and no dumping. Ms. Jones said she would not be opposed to foraging. She gave an example of the Orchard and Community Gardens.

Holly suggested an application for foraging and that it would not be allowed on Conservation Land without permission from the Conservation Commission. Discussion was had regarding foraging, humans and nature, and schools of thought regarding protection and interacting with the natural environment.

Discussion was had regarding dogs on leashes or following owner's commands; possibly changing it to dogs having to be on a leash.

The Commission wanted time to digest the proposed regulation language.

3. Trails and land update:

Ms. Jones discussed the mile-a-minute pulling kept to a single day to the high temperature that weekend. They focused efforts behind the Boston Skating Club. Ms. Jones suggested focusing on University Ave property in the future and sticking to smaller patches on Conservation land. Volunteers felt hand pulling was not the way to go. Goat renting was briefly discussed for Conservation land. Mowing meadow best practices for the Skating Club property/former golf-course would be twice a year in the late Spring and in the Fall.

Ms. Jones provided a reminder that the second remote planning meeting for the Saint Street lot would be on Tuesday, June 29th at 7pm. It will be recorded.

4. CPC report -passed over

5. Agent update -passed over

6. Minutes:

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue the minutes. Ms Capezio seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 4-0 by roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:54 p.m.

Next meeting: June 29th for Saint Street Park Planning, June 30, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center for regulation updates.

Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand