

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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**ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNER/
CONSERVATION AGENT**
HOLLY JONES, MSCI

OFFICE MANAGER/SR. ADMIN. ASST.
LYNN MARCHAND

**Conservation Commission Meeting
June 2, 2021
7:30 P.M.**

Present:

Kristen Capezio -Vice Chair, Carly Rocklen -Treasurer, John Gear, Catherine Walsh, and Peter Bamber

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

Please note the June 2, 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 Vice Chair, Kristin Capezio at 7:30 p.m. followed by a roll call.

Public Hearings:

1. 47 Orleans Rd. Map 11 Parcel 19-12 **Notice of Intent DEP File No. 251-1524 N2021-05**

Applicant: Ryan Ross

Project Description: Construction of an in-ground pool accessory to a single family home, with concrete patio, pool equipment, and safety gates, and replacement of a chain link fence, in the 100 foot Riverfront Area and the butter zone to a bordering vegetated wetland.

The representative for the applicant, Mr. Russell Waldron, outlined the proposed project details: installation of an in-ground swimming pool with a concrete patio, pool equipment, and replacement of the vinyl stockade fence and 4' chain link fence as it does not meet the Norwood 5' height requirement and due to the fence being in "rough shape". He explained that the location of the pool was up against the house to keep it out of the 50' buffer zone and out of the 100 year flood zones thus no flood storage replacement was proposed. He stated that despite a wetland flag had been moved up, thus adjusting the buffer zone, but they were able to keep the impervious surface, associated with the patio, out of the 50' buffer zone.

The Commission asked a few questions, Ms. Jones and Mr. Waldron replied to them, the applicant Mr. Ryan Ross thanked Ms. Jones and Mr. Waldron for their guidance and assistance with their project.

Ms. Jones showed the Plans with existing and proposed conditions. She discussed proposed order of conditions: standard conditions. Special conditions specific to the project regarded discharge of pool water such as pool water which shall not be directly or indirectly discharged into the wetland area or storm drain, but could be potentially discharged after de-chlorinating it and then releasing it onto the property in such a way that it soaked into the ground on the owner's property before reaching the wetland.

Motion I: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the hearing and to adopt Holly's (Ms. Jones') proposed conditions. Ms. Gear seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Ms. Jones told the applicant and representative that it has to be recorded with the Registry of Deeds and after it's issued that there was a 10-day appeal period before construction could commence. She also reminded him that she would need to perform a site inspection of erosion controls prior to construction.

2. **31 Commerce Way, Map 15 Parcel 5-5** **Request for Determination of Applicability** **N2021-06**
Applicant: Bowdoin Constriction Corp **Representative:** David Johnson, Norwood Engineering Co
Project Description: Installation of 50' of waterline for fire protection to an existing building and repair of an existing sidewalk. Both activities are occurring in an existing paved parking lot in the buffer zone of a bordering vegetated wetland.

Ms. Jones described it as a utility improvement project in an existing paved area and explained that the nearby wetland was constructed as a storm water basin that was turned into a wetland. By statute, stormwater infrastructure constructed after 1996 are not considered wetlands but that this was prior to that and has been previously delineated, as a wetland area which is the reason for the RDA.

Mr. David Johnson, representative for the applicant, showed the proposed plan and 50' water line system for the building. He noted that a third of it would be within the paved area of Commerce Way and the remainder would be in the front yard that crosses a paved sidewalk into the building. He stated that the wetland is adjacent to the stormwater basin which was constructed in an upland circa the 1990's and that a wetland had developed around it. He estimated that it would be a two day project to install the water line which is about 103 feet where it starts and approximately 70+ feet to where it enters the building. He stated that they were also seeking a negative determination for a small area of the existing sidewalk that will be reconstructed.

Mr. Johnson stated they contacted the fire department to get the connection specifications and their input for inside of the building and that they have also been working with Engineering and the Water Department.

After brief comments and questions from the Commission, acknowledging the fire safety issue and scope of the proposed project, they went onto the vote.

Motion I: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing and for a negative determination.

Ms. Rocklen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

3. **Hawes Walking Path, 1261 Washington St Map 8 Parcel 1B-1** **Notice of Intent 251-0525 N2021-07**
Applicant: Town of Norwood **Representative:** David Johnson, Norwood Engineering Co., Inc.
Project Description: Construction of a crushed stone walking path connecting Washington Street to an existing path along Hawes Brook.

Ms. Jones said that DEP had requested a stormwater checklist for redevelopment projects and that the main requirement for redevelopment in the riverfront was essentially that you improve the existing conditions. She said initially the project was an idea of the Trail's Committee that they submitted to the CPA and has since transitioned to a DPW project which will be connected from Washington Street straight to the existing walk-around the Hawes Pool ponds. Stone dust is proposed that is level with existing grades with the goal to have accessibility to folks with transportation wheelchairs, strollers, etc and not creating fill in the floodplain.

Director of Public Works, Mr. Mark Ryan, addressed the Commission stating over the years they have been trying to create this trail network throughout Norwood. He said it would connect Washington Street to the back of Edean. He described the existing conditions and said the intention is to make that 450' accessible as well as extending the path towards Washington street about 250', excavating down about a 6' wide path, installing gravel and then stone dust to finish grade; not raising the elevation, so there would be a connection to Washington Street to the existing path and then where the path ends nears the Hawes Brook where it empties into the ponds, extend the path another 200' to enter into the existing gravel path. He stated the project is funded, will be managed by DPW, would be done this summer with all siltation controls in effect, and would work with the Conservation Agent to ensure there were no issues. The Commission expressed support for the project.

Ms. Jones suggested keeping the public hearing open until the DEP comments requesting the stormwater checklist has been satisfied.

Motion I: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue the public hearing until the next meeting on June 16th.

A brief discussion was had regarding the Motion language to make a negative determination of applicability with conditions.

Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Conservation Commission Business:

1. Orchard/permaculture food forest updates and planning:

Mr. Mark Negron said they have some town money potentially available to do some site prep. He asked the Commission where ideally they would like a storage shed to be placed. A slide was displayed on the screen showing the two potential sites for the 8' x 16' shed for the Endean Park Food Forest. He explained that initially they would be storing a lot of stuff but that when that need was eventually reduced, they could use it for things like a cooling or shelter shack as well as a gathering point to talk and meet with volunteers. The size of the shed was chosen because it was the size of a trailer and could be moved around if needed. He stated they wanted to make sure it stays temporary and portable to respect the land there and the Conservation Commission. He added that the money that became available had to be spent by June 30th.

He discussed some of the issues/concerns with the project; being able to get a truck in to drop off compost and woodchips, moving one of the rocks, putting a post in and having a cable on it that will have a combination lock so people can't drive in there unless they're invited to. Also, water was stated as a big issue since a lot of water would be needed for 48 trees and plants. He stated that were trying to figure that out, possibly a very long hose that would reach the corner of the orchard and tapping into the Community Garden.

Discussion was had. Mr. Negron said they also have a potential grant from Home Depot. He said he would provide information through Holly to the Commission regarding the group from Vermont that could map out things and give a breakdown of what the cost would be to build and design the shed. He said it made more sense, if possible to put a plan together that takes the entire site into consideration including the ecology, location, and history as it pertains to what we're trying to accomplish.

Discussion was had regarding funding, water, sheet mulching, and trees. Ms. Walsh stated that the project should be laid out and not done piecemeal. Ms. Jones stated the next steps should likely be reaching out to get a quote for the shed and the come back with a larger potential design and bring that information to the next meeting. The Commission expressed support for the general idea but needed more specific information.

2. Norwood Day Planning Ms. Capezio suggested renting a table.

3. Regulatory Updates

No regulatory updates. Ms. Jones informed the Board that the process for abutters was recently streamlined and simplified, saving many hours of time for herself and the planning dept. She said she was also looking forward to hopefully changing the fee schedule to make it a flat fee.

4. Trails and land updates

Ms. Jones thanked everyone who came to the Saint Street planning meeting on May 20th and announced another one coming up on the 29th. She stated the upcoming events are mile-a-minute weeding days that the Trails Committee and Boston Skating Club have collaborated on organizing this coming Saturday 12-3. She said they were focusing on the property on University Ave as well as the back former Golf Course behind the Boston Skating Club. She said the event is shared on the Conservation Commission Facebook page.

Ms. Jones announced that they are still anticipating the pavilion going up the week of June 14th.

She also remarked about the pictures she forwarded to the Commission (and are also available on the Conservation Commission page) of the kiosks that were created at Germany Brook.

Ms. Jones reminded the Commission of the presentation from the last meeting that showed existing conditions and getting ideas about what people wanted to see for the Trail at the Saint Street Lot. She added that, at the next meeting, the consultants were going to bring two different plans showing the park in two different directions, each with different elements, to give people a visual of what some potential designs could look like.

5. **CPC report:** Ms. Walsh stated there was no report as they have not had a meeting.

6. **Agent update**

Ms. Jones gave an update on some of the potential violations:

70 Endicott Street/condo project - DEP did get a hit from there asbestos sampling there so there will be a requirement for more sampling to determine the extent of that but DEP would be taking the lead on it.

61 Endicott Street: Ms. Jones said she met with folks next door at the Norwood Commerce Center, about replacing the trees. She said they were excited about putting birches around the pond as well as some potentially larger trees, to be determined, in the back.

Ms. Jones said the Open Meeting Law, allowing the Commission to meet remotely, is set to expire with the State of Emergency. She added that the Governor has filed legislation to potentially extend the ability to meet remotely until Sept. 1st. She said they have an in-person space available at the Senior Center to meet and anticipated meeting on the 16th, in person there. She said if the legislation passes, it would allow them to continue meeting remotely but ultimately it was up to the Chair to determine the meeting location. She said it's possible that there would still be a hybrid element for people who weren't comfortable participating in person.

1. **Minutes:** March 17, 2021 Minutes & May 19, 2021

Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to accept the Minutes of March 17th and May 19th . Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.

Motion: Mr. Gear made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Bamber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.