

**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

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

**Present:**

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

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

The June 30, 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.

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**Public Hearings:**

The Norwood Conservation Commission held a Public Hearing under M.G.L. Ch. 40, Sec. 8C, The Conservation Commission Act, and Norwood Bylaw XXV, including any amendments thereto.

The Chair opened the public hearings and the following items were discussed:

1. Revisions of the regulations of the Norwood Wetlands Bylaw. Potential changes to the regulations may include but are not limited to, creating local Riverfront standards, adopting a variance mechanism, changing the fee schedule.

Ms. Jones provided the Commission with suggestions for changes to their regulations. She stated that several months ago an applicant brought to her attention that the regulations did not have standards for work in the riverfront area that an applicant would have to meet in order for the river to be protected. Ms. Jones said she drafted proposed language for regulations. Other proposed changes included: at the Commission's discretion a Determination of Applicability in the buffer zone and changes to the definition of the riverfront area (intermittent and perennial streams). She reviewed the details of the changes including the exceptions. Also discussed was cleaning up the fee schedule and evaluating which ones should be decreased or increased.

The Commission asked and provided comments, suggestions, and questions regarding the fee schedule change details, and looking at similar communities for comparison, peer reviews, MGL, analysis used, latitude for the Commission if there are mitigating circumstances, riverfront proposed regulations, clerical and formatting edits. Ms. Jones notified the Commission that the General Manager was going to be asking for a town-wide fee review in September and said the Commission could wait until then to make a decision on their fee schedule if they wanted to.

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to adopt the regulations as proposed with the clerical and formatting edits with the exception of the fee schedule. Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 7-0 by roll call vote.**

2. Under the Conservation Commission Act, the Commission will discuss regulations regarding use of Conservation land.

Ms. Jones said this was related to the Conservation Act which is a Massachusetts General Law that allows Conservation Commissions to promulgate regulations for conservation land. She recapped previous discussions of proposed changes including dogs having to be leashed (eliminating the language of being on “voice command”) and adding other pets as well, foraging may be permitted by permission, using language from the Wetland Bylaw related to motorized vehicles.

Commission members had discussion about the following topics and made several suggestions; adding language to include prohibiting removal of herbaceous plants, recreational use of wetlands, geocaching, paintballing, mountain biking guidance vs non-passive activities like obstacle courses, passive recreation/not disturbing the area, conservation land (specific/limited activities) vs parks, gatherings/caps.

One resident submitted a statement of concern about people parking on the street and blocking the driveway, having parties at the Pavilion, creating trash, vandalism, drinking, using fire for grills or creative uses. The resident suggested having fines and asked that her statement be put into the record. Discussion was had regarding Commission purview, parking spaces, pavilion as an event space & creating of restrictions, protection of the land, aversion to preveninh residents from coming to conservation space/restricting site, original use of space for parents being able to spend time with their children in the shade/out of the sun but not an event space (no electricity added), and potential application form/fee, sign-up process. Members indicated that this should be discussed further at another meeting.

*Ms. Walsh and Ms. Miller, who were participating remotely, became disconnect from the meeting. The Chair asked for a motion to continue to the next meeting.*

**Motion: Mr. Bamber made a motion to continue the next meeting (July 21<sup>st</sup>). Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 5-0 by roll call vote.**

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Next virtual meeting: July 21st virtually and in person at Norwood Community Media Studio, 245 Nichols St, Norwood MA, Door 22.

**Respectfully Submitted by Lynn Marchand**