

## CONSERVATION COMMISSION

STEPHEN WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN  
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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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**July 21, 2021  
7:30 P.M.**

### **Present:**

**Stephen Washburn, Chairman, Carly Rocklen -Treasurer, John Gear, Catherine Walsh, Peter Bamber, and Heather Miller.**

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

The July 21, 2021 meeting was held remotely using GoToMeeting software and in person at 275 Norwood Community Media Studio, 245 Nichols St, Norwood MA, Door 22.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Mr. 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 Department  
Project Description: Construction of a crushed stone walking path connecting Washington Street to an existing path along Hawes Brook.

The Chairmen read the public hearing information into the record and opened the public hearing.

Representing the Department of Public Works, Mr. Mark Ryan addressed the Commission. He described the existing stone dust walking path adjacent to Hawes Pond at the rear of the Hawes Pool with no connection at either end. The proposed project would be to construct 450' of new stone dust path to connect the existing 450' which would connect from Washington St adjacent to the Hawes Pool and Ponds, wrapping around and connecting to the walking/access road that leads to the rear of Endean and other travel ways for pedestrians to go to the Endean area. He said the revised plans addressed stormwater impacts by installing a drywell to collect the stormwater runoff from the Hawes Pool parking lot. He said that presently the water is collected in a catch basin, goes into a 10" drain, then through a water quality inlet storm sceptor, and lastly is discharged into the Hawes Brook. He stated that they added another layer of treatment to the runoff downstream of the storm sceptor by adding a 6' diameter leeching basin that would capture some of the runoff and allow it to slowly perc into the ground. No one from the public wished to speak to the application.

**MOTION: Mr. Bamber made a motion to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Intent with special conditions inclusive of an Operation and Maintenance Plan to be received prior to construction commencement and that the completed stormwater checklist be submitted to the Conservation Office and DEP. Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

**2. 60 Union St. subdivision Map 15-1 Parcel 5 Notice of Intent No. 251-05XX N2021-08**

Applicant: Lorenzo Quinones Torres Representative: Hooshmand Afshar, Taj Engineering  
Project Description: Construction of a four lot subdivision with three new single family homes in the buffer zone to a bordering vegetated wetland and the Riverfront Area of Traphole Brook.

The Chairmen read the public hearing information into the record. He stated they had received a request from the applicant to continue to the next meeting date. (Aug. 4<sup>th</sup>)

**MOTION: Mr. Gear made a motion to continue the public hearing to August 4th. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

**Wetland updates and issues:** \*Ms. Jones requested that the Chair take the Traphole Brook agenda item out of order as Mr. Chris Hirsch was waiting to provide an update to the Commission.

**1. Beaver Dams at Norwood Airport**

Ms. Jones stated that the airport and golf course are having flooding issues and the airport managers have expressed their intent to ask the Conservation Commission for an emergency certification. If a beaver dam is a threat to public health and safety, there is a two-part emergency certification process where the Health Department and the Board of Health (BOH) will issue an emergency certification for any work that involves the animals themselves. Ms. Jones said the BOH met last week, issued an emergency certification to trap the beavers at the airport. She said that the Conservation Commission would need to issue an emergency certification for breaching the dam or installing a flow level device or anything that physically changes the nature of the wetland. She added that the trapping had not been done yet because of the water being higher than the dam due to the amount of rainfall over the past month but that once the trapping was complete, they will seek an emergency permit from the Conservation Commission which would be good for 30 days from the date of issue. Ms. Jones explained that either the Chairman or his designee would have 24 hours to respond and assign the certification that could be ratified by the Commission at the next meeting. The threat to public health and safety that they've expressed is related to nuisance animals and waterfowl on the runway and making sure the runways don't flood. Also explained was that the beavers would have to be euthanized rather than relocated as it is illegal to relocate them due to the risk of spreading disease about wildlife populations.

**2. Traphole Brook Dam Removal Final Design Plans** \*taken out of order

Mr. Chris Hirsch from DER shared his screen showing the final design plan set and gave an overview of completed tasks; state permitting complete, 401 & 91 as well as the Wetland Protection Act completed, with one outstanding unit for the 404 Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers (historical compliance). He said they are nearly complete and will be ready to move on to the next phase of bidding, construction, and post construction. Mr. Hirsch discussed two grant applications and provided funding information. He gave a brief presentation to the Commission on each of the revised site plan sheets. Members asked questions regarding fish passage, plant species, construction start date, working with any of the local schools, fish habitats, debris collecting on underwater structures, signage, when it will be open to the public, and trout returning.

**Conservation Commission Business:**

**1. Orchard/permaculture food forest updates and planning**

The Chair commented that he ran into Mr. McGrath doing work on apple trees at a different site and had the opportunity to speak with him and see what he was doing which was a smaller installation of exactly what is being proposed in Norwood.

Ms. Jones said she was able to use FY21 funds to purchase an 8' x 12" shed for that area, which should be delivered on August 18<sup>th</sup> and that she had also lined up a local landscaper to do the pad. She reminded the Commission that several weeks ago discussion was had regarding creating a subcommittee to do proactive planning for this area. The Chair stated the subcommittee would be to oversee, coordinate, and direct the reestablishment of the orchard and associated food forest. General discussion was had regarding a possible subcommittee.

**MOTION: Mr. Bamber made a motion to form a subcommittee for the Endean permaculture food forest. Mr. Gear seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

**2. Regulatory updates**

Ms. Jones said she would be working on looking up fee schedules of surrounding towns.

**3. Trails and land update**

Ms. Jones said the at Ellis Pond they had a second treatment for water chestnut and there had been hand pulling of water chestnut at the Hawes Pool Ponds. Also noted was on July 29<sup>th</sup> there would be the presentation of the design plan for the Saint Street Lot and a culmination of the design process.

**4. CPC report**

Ms. Walsh announced that one of the members had stepped down and currently the Chair is Patty Starr, Vice Chair is Joe Sheehan, and the Treasurer is Joe Greeley. The bulk of the last meeting centered around updating the community preservation plan and the needs assessment with a focus on outreach to get people to solicit projects for funding. She said they would do a call for funding around October/November. The Mr. Washburn said the Commission could provide some ideas especially for projects larger than the Commission could tackle alone. Ms. Walsh expressed her hope in utilizing the future part-time CPC Admin. who would be reporting to the Planning Department.

**5. Agent update :** Ms. Jones updated the Board regarding her wetlands delineation training in Maine.

**6. Minutes**

**MOTION: Mr. Bamber made a motion to accept the Minutes of April 21<sup>st</sup> & June 16th. Ms. Walsh seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously, 6-0 by roll call vote.**

**7. 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 9:40 p.m.

Next meeting: August 4th at 7:30 p.m.

Location: remotely using GoToMeeting software and in person at 275 Norwood Community Media Studio, 245 Nichols St, Norwood MA, Door 22.