

Weston Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes
May 12, 2020
Approved: May 28, 2020

Members Participating Joseph Berman (chair), Alison Barlow, Cynthia Chapra, Rees Tulloss, Ellen Freeman Roth, and Rebecca Loveys (left at 8:00)
Members Absent: Josh Feinblum
Conservation Staff: Michele Grzenda

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 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting was conducted via remote participation via Zoom and the link was provided on the Posted Agenda. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public could adequately access the proceedings.

7:30 p.m. Admin. Matters

1. Land Management Updates
 - Wet trail off Concord road near 455 Concord Road has been temporarily closed and detour signs have been installed; Rees Tulloss has also added a 10-foot span of boardwalk near the same area. WFTA hopes to enlist volunteers in building a boardwalk for the closed off trail this year.
 - WCC received an email from a resident who expressed concerns about bikers and trail runners on conservation land trails during Covid-19
2. Request to Extend ORAD for 75 Scotch Pine Road (337-1309) - Motion by Rees Tulloss to extend the ORAD for two years; seconded by Cynthia Chapra; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

7:45 p.m. Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) 661 Boston Post Road; B. Pulaski (owner- absent), M. Sullivan, Engineer

Mr. Sullivan, on behalf of the owner, requested to construct a replacement septic system. The site is currently developed as a single-family residential lot. A Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) has been located to the rear of the property. The existing septic system is in failure and must be replaced in accordance with Title 5 requirements. The proposed plan will relocate the leach field to the front of the house, outside the 100-foot buffer zone. The only work within the buffer zone involve installing the septic tank, pump chamber, and pipe connections in the backyard, where it is currently lawn. Erosion controls in the form of 10-inch straw wattles and entrenched siltation fence will be placed greater than 40-feet from the wetland edge. The Agent informed the Commission and Mr. Sullivan that the site is within an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) to Cambridge Water Supply. Mr. Sullivan will reach out to the City of Cambridge and discuss the project to ensure it complies with Title V. Motion by Ellen Freeman Roth to issue a Negative Determination with a condition that the Applicant get confirmation from Cambridge Water Dept. that the project complies with the standards to conduct work in the ORW. Seconded by Rees Tulloss; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

8:00 p.m. Request for minor plan change – 28 Pine Street; Natalie Sawyer

In April 2019, the Commission issued a Det. of Applicability which allowed the owner to remove existing shed and replace in same location. The permit also allowed for prep work: minor grading; repairs to driveway - repave around shed area. All work is 50' from wetland edge. That work was completed in 2019, however, Because of the repairs needed, and the poor condition of the entire driveway, it became clear that a full driveway replacement was necessary. The limit of pavement will not change; except to slightly reduce the asphalt area at the back of the turnaround area (a couple inch reduction to straighten

out the end). All asphalt to be removed and replaced. The paving company anticipates adding 3"-6" of gravel (depending on the state of what they find under there) to establish a proper base. Motion by Cynthia Chapra to administratively approve the project; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

7:15 p.m. Admin. Matters

1. Trail Use Request: Cambridge School of Weston: Sept 16 and Sept 30; The Commission authorized the trail use contingent upon the school abiding to any Social distancing or other Covid-19 laws that may be in effect at that time.
2. Correspondence: MBTA's letter re: informing the WCC of WPA exempt work proposed on the MBTA Fitchburg line. Specifically, MBTA will be implementing an Automatic Train Control (ATC) system (signal replacement and upgrades). The MBTA takes the position that the project is exempt from the Wetlands Protection Act. It was the Commission's opinion that this work likely falls under a WPA exemption but suggested the Applicant request another ruling from DEP. The Agent will reach out to Lincoln, Concord, and DEP's Circuit Rider.
3. License Discussion: Waltham Fields Community Farm use of Wellington Farm. Motion by Rees Tulloss to authorize the Town Manager to sign; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth; roll call vote: each member responded Aye
4. Request for Minor Plan Change: 56 Nonesuch Road (337-1378) – The Applicant proposes some modifications to the approved dock anchoring system originally approved earlier this year. Specifically, the two 2' x 2' concrete anchors at the end of the dock are no longer proposed. Instead, the dock will be held in place via twelve poles installed around the perimeter of the dock. Each of the poles will have metal 'feet' measuring 12" x 8" square at the bottom. The corners of these metal feet are angled slightly toward the pond bottom to provide some grip to hold the dock in place. The footprint of the twelve, 12" x 8" metal feet is roughly the same as the two (2' x 2' concrete anchors that were originally proposed. In addition, the new dock is slightly shorter (18 feet instead of 20 feet) and will be constructed of aluminum instead of galvanized steel. The dock is still seasonal and the entire dock (including all components) will be removed from the pond each fall. Motion by Cynthia Chapra to approve the minor plan change; seconded by Rees Tulloss; roll call vote: each member responded Aye
5. Approval 4/28/20 Con Com minutes – motion by Cynthia Chapra to approve; seconded by Rees Tulloss; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

8:40 p.m. 16 Carroll Circle – appeal of tree removal denial decision; Mr. Attar (owner)

Mr. Attar had requested the Commission pay for the removal of two conservation land trees which abut his land. Mr. Attar felt that the trees are a safety threat. After reviewing the trees, the Conservation Agent and Rees Tulloss requested an arborist assess the trees. It was the arborist's opinion that the trees did not appear to create a safety threat to 16 Carroll Circle property. Therefore, the Commission opined that with the limited funds it has, the Commission will not pay for these trees to be removed. Mr. Attar indicated that he had an arborist look at the trees and his arborist felt the trees were a hazard. The Commission asked Mr. Attar to forward that information to the Agent and they will continue discussion on 5/26/20.

8:55 p.m. FY21 Budget discussion – proposed reduction:

The FY21 budget included 3 increases over the FY20 Budget: (1) \$14,000 for fire road and boardwalk improvements; (2) \$10,000 for drafting of the wetland's bylaw; and \$10,000 for general Case Estates maintenance. It was the Commission's opinion that work on the bylaw could wait another year and therefore, the proposed budget increase could be decreased by \$10,000. In addition, the Commission will most likely only complete two of the three known fire road maintenance projects and therefore, that line item could be reduced by \$2,000.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.