

Natick Conservation Commission
March 19, 2020

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairman, Matt Gardner. Members present: Doug Shepard, George Bain, Mike Downey, MK Schneeweis, Jeff Richards, Kathy Rehl.

The meeting was held via Zoom online conference platform due to the state of emergency surrounding COVID-19 and the requirements to social distance and limit large gatherings. The meeting was recorded and aired on the Government Channel. Votes were taken through roll call method.

Notice of Intent – 47 Water Street

Matt Gardner read public hearing notice. The proposal is to demolish existing single family dwelling. Julie Doran, homeowner, reviewed the previous 47 Water Street location and will continue to have it as an undisturbed parcel. She has delineated parcel so all the land is considered 49 Water Street. The plan is to demolish house in the rear, fill basement area, and fill the abandoned sewerage system.

Matt Gardner asked the location of sewer structure. Julie showed the area of cess pool. The lid is buried. Will do the standard collapsing and filling in. There is also an existing basement/crawl space. Will plant only grass to make one large yard.

Have contacted asbestos and pest control as well.

Matt Gardner asked for plans for erosion control to be submitted; hay bales included. Include the following on the plans:

1. The 25' No-Disturb and 40' No-Build Zones
2. Where erosion controls will be installed

Mike Downey asked if any fill will be trucked in for foundation or septic fill. Yes, only what would be needed for the two holes. Mike asked to provide the volume and confirm if it's clean/certified. Commission only wants an estimate of the volume of basement and septic. Julie was in agreement. She will contact the company she hopes to use and ask where their resources are from. She's on the same page with clean, natural fill.

Kathy Rehl asked if there are any impacts with bringing in fill. The topography will not change. It will reduce impervious on flood.

DEP has not issued a file number yet. We will continue to next meeting.

Ms. Doran is hoping to demo by end of spring. Will get appropriate plot plan in place.

Matt asked the public if they had any questions or to raise their hands. (Instructions were given to raise hand and time given on Zoom platform). No comments.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to April 2nd, Doug Shepard moved, Kathy Rehl seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

George Bain, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Mike Downey, yes
MK Schneeweis, yes
Kathy Rehl, yes
Doug Shepard, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Request for Determination – 41 Birch Road

Matt Gardner read public hearing notice. The proposal is to remove 8 white pine trees. Bruce, homeowner, stated the trees could fall on house. He submitted a sketch showing location and distance from Lake Cochituate.

Six of the trees are just inside the 100' Buffer Zone on a wooded hill going up from the lake. Bruce lost three trees that had fallen on his fence and car and doesn't want any to hit his house. The final two trees are close to the house. He's not clearing the hillside. There are 50-60 trees and he's only taking out a couple. The integrity of the hill will remain. He will also leave the stumps.

Mike Downey feels it's homeowner's prerogative to cut trees, but would like to see replanting. Bruce wasn't planning to, but will look into it as it's costly. It might not be jurisdictional. Matt is okay with project as proposed. Kathy Rehl suggested to leave the saplings that are there to grow and it would be sufficient.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close. George Bain moved, MK Schneeweis, seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes
Kathy Rehl, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Mike Downey, yes
George Bain, yes
Doug Shepard, yes

Matthew Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination, Doug Shepard moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Kathy Rehl, yes

Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Matthew Gardner, yes

Request for Determination - 17 Fisher Street

Matt Gardner read public hearing notice. The proposal is to abandon existing cess pools and connect to new septic system. Dave, described existing three-bedroom home and the location of cess pools on triangle piece of property on edge of Cochituate Rail Trail. Will install straw wattles and fencing. The system sits in existing lawn. Limit of work would be 67' from wetland.

No trees will be removed. They will dig out the existing cess pools. The one 20 ft off the house will be removed, the one 30 ft from house will be collapsed. Jim White gave recommendations. Waiting for his okay.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close, George Bain moved, Kathy Rehl seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Kathy Rehl, yes

Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Matthew Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination, Doug Shepard moved, MK Schneeweis seconded, all in favor, 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes
Kathy Rehl, yes
Mike Downey, yes
George Bain, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Doug Shepard, yes
Matthew Gardner, yes

Notice of Intent – Foxhill Road – DPW

Matt Gardner read public hearing notice. The proposal is for the construction of a sewer pumping station and piping connections. Arthur Allen, Eco-Tech representative, gave general plans. The project wetland scientist delineated. Greg Eldridge, Engineer - Haley and Ward, prepared the plans. He pointed out the BVW, seasonal pond area and a certified vernal pool. Ponding limit of vernal pool was highlighted. The pump station will be the limit of work. The project is within 100 ft. The site was delineated January 28th when there was no ice or snow.

Mike Downey asked where is the certification of the vernal pool from. From Natural Heritage 1/24/20. The star symbol on the map is the vernal pool in the wetland. Matt Gardner asked is this replacing or new? It is new and will be located off existing sidewalk on a paper street off Foxhill Drive that was historically cleared and used as yard waste. Once it's installed, it will be flat to the ground (the size of a phone booth). It's a small pre-fab fiberglass structure 4 ft wide, 3 ft high, 4 ft deep and will sit on a concrete slab. The project part of the same contract going with the other road work.

The vernal pool to the wetland boundary is 73 ft. A little more than half way to the wetlands and vernal pool. Currently it's a dump site for surrounding houses. Matt Gardner is familiar with this site and it's been piled with debris for years.

Mike Downey looked on MassGIS and Certified Vernal Pool is on 50 Kennington Road which is Northwest. Where is the vernal pool? They don't always put the vernal pool on subject parcel.

Matt Gardner recommended:

1. Using the more conservative map
2. Clearly define limit of work
3. Standard erosion control

The pump station first and a concrete wet wall. Concrete manhole before moving onto the piping.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close, Kathy Rehl moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes
Kathy Rehl, yes
Mike Downey, yes
George Bain, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Doug Shepard, yes
Matthew Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue the standard Order of Conditions, Doug Shepard moved, MK Schneeweis seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes
Kathy Rehl, yes
Mike Downey, yes
George Bain, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Doug Shepard, yes
Matthew Gardner, yes

Notice of Intent continuation – 1 Randall Court

Matt Gardner asked for an update as there were concerns with no erosion controls surrounding catch basin, potential additional resource areas, and exposed culverts on site.

Karon Skinner, Applicant's representative, submitted letter from Sue MacArthur stating there was no wetlands on site. She spoke with the Applicant regarding erosion controls and the catch basin and they installed a compost sock around the basin. The exposed culvert looks to be a 24" drainage pipe that travels under Middlesex Path. It's still functioning and will need to be buried.

Marianne Iarossi did not see any compost sock at the catch basin when inspecting the site earlier. The Applicant, Arthur, stated he bought compost sock and will install it around catch basin. It's not attached to anything (dry well). Matt stated it needs to be protected.

Matt Gardner stated as part of this project, the catch basin needs to be cleaned and then install the silt sack and compost sock.

1. Install silt sock now.
2. Clean it after construction.
3. If it's not functional, we'll ask that it's cleaned and no water should be pooling.

In regards to the culvert in the rear, the 24" pipe was exposed and needs to be covered up. Keep covered and protected as part of site maintenance. A plan needs to be put in place to protect the slope, a planting plan, whatever riprap, and anything else as part of getting the site completed. Arthur was not going to disturb. Matt said it's already disturbed and needs the Middlesex path side of house 20' from corner of house to plot line. The slope needs to be protected, plantings, etc., to stabilize. The Commission requested a plan.

George Bain concerned with parking in rear and sitting on the 24" conduit. The pipe looks like it's coming in straight. Concerned with what type of weight on the pipe. DPW will look at pipe. It shouldn't be an issue, but the construction crews should be made aware of it.

Sue McArthur makes recommendations in her submitted letter. Applicant is aware of them.

Matt Gardner asked for the following:

1. Planting plan.
2. Have the slope in good condition before requesting a Certificate of Compliance.

Marianne reminded there was an Enforcement Order issued for this site. The original Enforcement Order was sent to the wrong address.

Commission agreed the site should be cleaned up before lifting the Enforcement Order. Commission also does not want to issue the Order of Conditions until site is cleaned. Applicant will have site cleaned before next meeting.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to April 2nd, George Bain moved, Kathy Rehl seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes
Kathy Rehl, yes
Mike Downey, yes
George Bain, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Doug Shepard, yes
Matthew Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to adjourn meeting at 8:40, George Bain moved, Kathy Rehl seconded, all in favor 7-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Kathy Rehl, yes

Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Matthew Gardner, yes

Meeting adjourned 9:30 pm