

Natick Conservation Commission
April 20, 2023

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairman, Matthew Gardner. Members present: Doug Shepard, Jeff Richards, Chris Stillman, David Howe. Members absent: Mike Downey, George Bain

Certificate of Compliance – DEP File #233-865 – 21 Glen Street

Claire Rundelli reported that the single family home is now complete. There were some minor changes. Claire showed the as built plan where there is slight grading. Overall, they are in compliance. A slight swale built toward the wetland. A similar style of swale was approved on the other side of house. It might be shedding water on other properties. The surveyor agreed with Claire.

Matt Gardner stated there are two options:

- Remove material from site and bring back to the “as proposed”.
- Install planted berm with mulch on top.

The berm would be between 6-8 inches high. Will also plant 8 shrubs that will grow 6 ft to match fence height to insure water stays on property. Claire is concerned with the grass not fully grown on site. The developer was not on site and they didn’t think it was important. The yard was just seeded this spring. There is no response yet if there will be a second seeding. Dave stated the slope is minor and it will not wash away.

Matt Gardner stated the Commission cannot add a condition to a Certificate of Compliance. We are not sure if the house is sold or under agreement. Matt recommended sending a letter to abutters if there are any problems; if there is a breach of berm. He wants to keep an eye on it. Claire will reach out to Jessica if there are any issues.

Everything else on the site is in compliance. Jeff asked if we required wetland markers. No, the wetland line is down a significant slope and we did not require wetland markers.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance, David Howe moved, Chris Stillman seconded, all in favor 5-0.

Certificate of Compliance – DEP File #233-823 and #233-831 – Heritage Lane & General Green Ave.

Claire Rundelli reviewed the two different filings.

- #233-823 – Demolition
- #233-831 – Two housing developments

Claire did a walk through with engineer and management. There are no major concerns. All systems are functioning properly. Claire gave permission to remove the erosion control and made recommendations for a few minor fixes to improve the systems.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance, David Howe moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Request for Determination continuation – 8 Crest Road

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to May 3rd, Doug Shepard moved, Chris Stillman seconded, all in favor, 5-0.

Notice of Intent – DEP File #233-XXX – USA Army Solider Systems Lab Boat Ramp

A DEP file number has not been issued yet. Matt Gardner read public hearing notice. The proposal is for the in place replacement of an existing boat ramp at the US Army Natick Solider Systems Center.

Alexandra Burman, Civil Structural Engineer, described the existing concrete ramp in the water and the proposal to replace with pre-cast plank systems held by a pile system reinforced.

Matt Gardner asked if the existing black top will be removed. Yes, all will be removed and tested. The top layer will be removed and tested by the Army, then drive sheet pile down to keep ramp from shifting. They will install crushed stone. The sheet piles will be 15 ft down. There will be dewatering throughout the process.

125 sf sheet piles around the perimeter. A design started by the Army and they took it from there. 31 feet long on each side and 14 ft wide; roughly 450 sf. They are looking to start the project within 30 days. Claire stated the dewatering will be the time consumer.

Jeff Richards asked about mussels in the area. Claire was not aware of any concerns. Claire stated that they would will receive their Chapter 91 license once Commission gave permission.

There are no issues with the project. Waiting for a file number.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to May 3rd, Chris Stillman moved, David Howe seconded, all in favor 5-0.

Minutes

3/2

3/16

3/19

Jeff Richards made an edit on the March 16th minutes.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to accept the above minutes, Jeff Richards moved, David Howe seconded, all in favor 5-0.

General Business Discussion

Community Organic Farm Board

Claire reached out to Mary at the farm. They do not have regularly scheduled meetings. They meet when necessary. Mary requested Mike Downey to be on the board. Mike is not in attendance and the Commission will continue to May 3rd to discuss with Mike.

Trails Forum Update

Matt Gardner, Claire Rundelli, Doug Drenik, Josh Ostroff, and David Loutzenheiser met and discussed the future of trails in Natick; focusing on regional connections. Now is the time for Natick to push forward. We will look into easements from private properties. Sherborn got their 8m permit right up to Natick's boarder. There are a few challenging spots near Hopewell Farm. Matt reviewed the map and what might be possible. Ideally, to connect to Wellesley and Sherborn with the Sudbury Aqueduct, but it will take effort on our part.

Claire reviewed the Aqueduct corridor and showed the east side challenges are less. A number of properties unlikely to cross, insuring citizens there is a connection. We want them to be able to see a sign and know where it will take them.

Matt reviewed the Pickerel Pond area and the Cochituate Aqueduct where it runs to the Wellesley town line past Rathbun Road. One of the challenges is on Bradford Road where signage is needed to make the connection via sidewalks. The aqueduct goes underground. Can it eventually connect to the rail trail? There are a lot of opportunities for connectivity. The purpose is a non-driving option for people.

We have a grant application in for North/South Pickerel Pond area to connect to those neighborhoods. Claire will keep the Commission updated.

Earth Day – April 29th and 30th.

A weekend of events is planned. Saturday morning there will be an Open Space/Advisory table at the Common.

Saturday afternoon Martin Kessel is leading a walk at Pickerel Pond. The Trails and Forest Stewardship Committee is leading a Town Forest meadow work day Sunday morning.

Claire will do a two-hour walk in the Town Forest on Sunday. No registration is required. Matt encourages Commission's visibility. The walk will start at the Oak Street entrance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.