

**Natick Conservation Commission**  
**May 18, 2023**

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

**Major Stormwater Permit** – 21 Park Avenue

The owner met with staff and is going to revise the plans to address the staff concerns. He has requested a continuation.

Matt asked for a motion to continue to 6/7, Mike Downey moved, Chris Stillman seconded, 4-0.

**Request for Determination (continuation)** – 8 Crest Road

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to 6/7, Mike Downey moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 4-0.

**Notice of Intent** – **DEP File #233-893** – U.S. Army Soldier Systems Center Boat Ramp

The project has not received a DEP File number. Claire has prepared conditions for the Commission to review. These were sent in advance of the meeting to Chris Albers, project engineer.

Chris S. asked how the water coming out of the pump bag will be tested to ensure no material is coming through the filter fabric. Chris Albers stated that there may be some fines mixed in but the water should be clear, so a visual inspection should be sufficient.

Chris S. wants to be sure that the manufacturer specs for the pump bag be followed.

Matt Gardner asked for a motion to close, Chris Stillman moved, Mike Downey seconded, all in favor 4-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue the Order of Conditions with the conditions as reviewed, Mike Downey moved, Chris Stillman seconded, all in favor 4-0.

**Minor Plan Change Request**

**Lot 3 Arrow Path**

Claire provided a quick overview of the requested minor plan change. The project engineer, Kendra Santamaria clarified that the patio is not fully impervious but also not designed with specific pervious pavers.

Matt doesn't have any issues with removing lawn.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to approve the minor plan change, Jeff Richards moved, Chris Stillman seconded, all in favor 4-0.

## General Business Discussion

### Beaver Solutions Quote for Oak Street Culvert

Claire reviewed the quote for the flow leveler and fencing recommendations from Beaver Solutions. We do have some discounts available to us, but it will be between \$3-5,000.

Matt asked for a motion to approve Claire moving forward with installation, Chris Stillman moved, Mike Downey seconded, 4-0.

### Mechanic Street Parking Lot Regulations and Signage

Josh Ostroff was in attendance to provide an overview of history of this lot. There are a few issues as we approach the final striping and formal opening of the lot that we are looking for the Commission's input on as the landowner.

Gate has already been removed, but fencing along 7 Mechanic St is still up until an agreement can be reached with that property owner.

Need to address parking enforcement to avoid commuter parking in this lot. This may come in the form of signage, along with visits from parking enforcement. The Commission agreed that a 4 hour parking limit makes sense for the user type of the CRT. There may also be an opportunity to get this on the parking enforcement app at no cost for parking.

Lighting has not yet been addressed. There are several abutting residential areas, so overhead lighting may cause an issue with light encroachment. Perhaps bollard lighting?

Matt asked if this lot would give unintentional vehicular access to the CRT? The grading does have a berm between the lot and the CRT, along with paved paths to provide clear routes from the lot to the CRT. Josh will be asking the CRT Advisory Committee to recommend open fencing to keep desire line paths from forming.

### Nipmuc Harvesting of Atlantic White Cedar Update

Claire provided an overview of the interaction between Andre Strongbearheart Gaines Jr. and the Natick Police on Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> while he was harvesting Atlantic White Cedar. It was an overall neutral interaction but staff will be setting up a meeting with the Nipmuc to acknowledge the issue and move forward with a plan for improved training and internal communication.

### Community Organic Farm Board – Conservation Commission Representative

Claire gave an overview of how the board operates to those who have missed previous discussions. Mike is fine serving as the representative.

Matt asked for a motion to appoint Mike Downey as the Conservation Commissions's representative for the Natick Community Organic Farm Board, Chris Stillman moved, Jeff Richards seconded, 4-0.

### Claire Time Off

Claire will be off for 2 weeks 5/25-6/5.

### Grants

CRFM is continuing very well and approaching end of year 1 of that grant.

Tiny Forest project engagement is going well and soil testing samples were collected earlier in the day that will be evaluated by the UMaine lab.

SuAsCo walks went very well! Year 1 reporting will include a soil health report along with prioritization matrices for nature-based solutions for the identified project locations.

Dam grants – Mike wants to be sure the Nipmuc are involved in the park design process. Claire confirmed that they were built into the budget as paid consultants.

### MSMCP Walk

Claire will be leading a walk at Pickerel Pond with Kristen Wyman of the Nipmuc for Massachusetts Society of Municipal Conservation Professionals.

### Stormwater and CPC Bylaws

Both the CPC Bylaw and revisions to the Stormwater Bylaw were approved by Spring Town Meeting and are now going under review by the MA Attorney General. Claire will work to schedule a review of the regulations and design standards to approval in conjunction with the new bylaw language.

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.