

Natick Conservation Commission
May 21, 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.

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.

Request for Determination continuation– 181 West Central Street

Randy Johnson provided a memo from Fred King. It verifies the ponding is less than the one-quarter acre foot requirement to qualify as an Isolated Land Subject to Flooding. Matt Gardner reiterated we have to determine whether it's an Isolated Land Subject to Flooding and jurisdictional under the Wetlands Protection Act.

Randy did diligent calculations. It shows less than 7200 cubic feet, which is less. It's an Isolated Vegetated Wetland.

Matt Gardner stated we can close and determine it's an Isolated Vegetated Wetland under the Natick Wetlands Bylaw, and not subject to flooding.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close, Doug Shepard moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

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

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a determination that it's an Isolated Vegetated Wetland under the Natick Wetlands Bylaw, but not under the Wetlands Protection Act, Doug Shepard moved, MK Schneeweis moved, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes
Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Request for Determination of Applicability continuation – 52 Union Street

The applicant did not attend the last meeting, but it was opened. The proposal is to tie into town sewer. Rod Scott, representing owner, deemed an emergency and work has been completed. Erosion Control, straw and silt fence surrounded all the affected areas. Grass has been starting to grow.

The red line is in the buffer. Matt Gardner, because it was an emergency, it is something we would have issued a Negative 3 Determination. No one had any issues.

Doug Shepard feels it's always good to change from septic to sewer.

Loamed and seeded and in good shape.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close, Jeff Richards moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

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

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination, Doug Shepard moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor, 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

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

Notice of Intent – 10 General Greene Ave. – 233-836

Mr. Gardner read public hearing notice. The project includes work to support the interior renovations of Building 38 MWR, including installation of 280 linear feet of a new fire

water service, concrete sidewalk, removal of existing stairs and construction of a new wood deck.

Terry Garrahan described site. Planning a 50 x 16 ft deck. Will remove 25 steps and bring back toward the fitness trail. Will be rerouted slightly by building 38 and rejoin with current fitness trail. Showed erosion control when stairs will be removed.

Less than a one-day job. Hand tools to pull out brick and will carry wood up stairs. Straw wattles where deck will be. Some grading on fitness trails. Soldiers will benefit from deck and trail.

MK Schneeweis asked will the new area be stabilized where stairs are removed? Wattles at base of stairs; terrane is pretty packed.

An abutter is concerned about noise. They do not anticipate any noise.

Certified mail receipts will be sent to Marianne when received.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close, George Bain moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue standard Order of Conditions, Jeff Richards moved, Doug Shepard seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Notice of Intent – 10 Drury Lane – 233-840

Mr. Gardner read public hearing notice. The proposal is to construct a rear addition. Susan McArthur, representing homeowner, Jonathan Kingsbury, delineated in March.

Landscape, lawn levels and drops off rather than slope to wetland. Mr. Kingsbury is proposing a rear two story addition outside of the No Build and No Disturb zones. There will be no stock piling within, so no sediment goes downhill and will install erosion control.

As part of mitigation, they are proposing to clean up areas in buffer zone and dispose off site and plant native plants. Doug Shepard asked if the clean-up will be done by hand. Yes.

Mr. Gardner asked about roof run off. It hadn't been discussed, but ground water is not high and can install dry wells. The topography showed map of slope and area. Jeff Richards feels it looks like the property separates; half of property is in Aquifer Protection district. If it is, Commission will ask for dry wells for roof run off. That is what we would ask if it was all in the Aquifer Protection District. It will be conditioned.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close, Jeff Richards moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue standard Order of Conditions with a special condition:

1. Roof run off to be captured in dry wells.

MK Schneeweis moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Mike Downey, yes

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

General Business

114 Glen Street drainage

Don Frail, owner, moved in December 2019. The front basin that is 3-4 inches sunk at the lower part of the stream. It's now accumulating water. Concerned with mosquitos. He's responsible for maintenance of grass. He feels the fix would be adding some soil and sod. There would still be a slower slope, but not pool and accumulate water like it has. He hasn't talked to Brendan Homes, but has also had issues with water standing in the rear of his property for up to five days. They are responsible for this area.

Matt Gardner, our issue is we don't have regulatory teeth, if it's causing sediment in the resource area, we could address this more. It seems like it's changed in ten months. It was sodded last August. Don asked if he can add more sod as long as stormwater system doesn't change. It works according to the function it was designed for. As long as it's not impeded, that's fine. Matt Gardner would like to see if there is any filing that needs to be done. If so, Commission would need to see a plan. Marianne and Matt will research if it's regulatory or not. Marianne doesn't see it being regulatory. Sod to elevate water, just trying to get the water distributed instead of pooling.

This project would not trigger a Land Disturbance permit. It's not a plan change since a Certificate of Compliance was issued. Commission wants to make sure the right process is followed. There were a lot of issues across the street when these three homes were being built. The other approach is to lower the bulge. It's a straight grade. We don't want to impede or interfere with how this system functions and could cause interconnected problems.

George Bain thought maybe a poor design? Sink hole? It worked initially and it's now a depression. On paper it works. Adding some volume could be a solution. Matt said he could try the fill, but to be careful or he will have to fix. Maybe get an engineer. An expense and might be overkill.

Mike Downey asked if the town engineer would review. Bill McDowell can provide some guidance. Don thinks it's fine, it's easy to undo. If it's a problem, he'll get Brendon homes involved.

Mike Downey stated in order for the water to drain, it will have to be directed in a pipe. Putting sod on top of water, will still be water. Will need a grade change to make it even. Don or Brendon homes will do it.

Matt Gardner is sympathetic to Don. Recommended he go to Brendon Homes, but will have town engineer look at it. Happy to work with Don to find a solution. Marianne will reach out to Bill and let Don know his opinion.

Windy Lo Stormwater

Marianne feels things are going on fine. Ben Stevens pumped water out of basin and went several feet down. Monitoring twice a week. The levels are low and there is no overflow and installed some basins; slope is stabilizing. Oxbow doesn't think any long term effects in vernal pool. It didn't settle out and has no impact. He observed all the appropriate species related to a healthy vernal pool when he was there. We don't need to worry about the vernal pool's health. The key is when ready to unplug, seeded and vegetated. We'll need to see if everything is functioning as designed.

Marianne stated Ben Stevens will be using Brian Butler as the SWPP and plans to be completed in July. Matt will call Brian tomorrow to discuss his role as SWPP.

Conservation Commission logo

Marianne is looking for Commission's feedback. Commission reviewed all the designs. 1-3 looks like a municipal logo, the other series look more like a nonprofit design.

George Bain feels the deer symbol does not represent a wetland species. Doug Shepard likes the coloring in #1, MK agreed.

Is black the appropriate background? George Bain feels a blue herring should be on it; one with coloring. Sample #1. The bird should be within the logo. Mike Downey thought maybe the outline of the town? It looks like a town seal, might be confusing who is sending out correspondence.

Final comments made:

1. Use logo #1
2. Herring, bird, fish, or salamander instead of deer
3. Navy blue background color instead of black
4. Different shapes other than circle
5. Add leaves on the tree

TaFS membership selection subcommittee

New committee posted on line. 11 applications so far; admissions open until June 12th. Matt suggested a subcommittee to recommend a short list to the full Conservation Commission. Three people to recommend nine committee members. Can review all the applications. Commission agreed to this approach. MK Schneeweis, Mike Downey and Jeff Richards will be the subcommittee to recommend the short list of applicants.

Stormwater Regulations

Marianne Iarossi didn't get any feedback. Legal language was added from Town Counsel; pretty much boiler plate language. Surety section was added at the end.

Need a vote to approve. Appendix A was not discussed last meeting. Matt Gardner stated we are already asking developers to use current NOAA regulations. Jeff Richards stated the government's standards were older. We can ask, but can't mandate. Matt – we'll leave it open and make sure applicants can use one or another standard. We can hold them to the higher standard.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to adopt these Stormwater Regulations, Doug Shepard moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

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

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion for Conservation Agent, Town Engineer, Assistant Town Engineer, Building Commissioner, and Board of Health Director to be “designated agents” under the Stormwater Bylaw and Regulations, MK Schneeweis moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

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

Minutes

April 2nd

April 16th

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to accept the above minutes, Jeff Richards moved, Mike Downey seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

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

Matt Gardner, yes

MVP Grants

Matt Gardner will sign grant application letters of support.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to adjourn, George Bain moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

George Bain, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Mike Downey, yes

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.