

Natick Conservation Commission
June 4, 2020

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Chairman, Matt Gardner. Members present: Doug Shepard, George Bain, 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.

Request for Determination – 9 Ridge Avenue

Matt Gardner read public hearing notice. The proposal is to replace existing staircase and floating dock at Lake Cochituate. Andrew Willard, homeowner, bought his home under a year ago and believes the current staircase and dock are original and at least thirty years old. He would like to replace the stairs and remove the dock and replace it with an aluminum one. He was told by DCR to contact Natick Conservation.

Marianne Iarossi, stated the applicant submitted a map of the existing dock and the proposed plan. She reviewed the map. The stairs are partially in the water. The old dock is in the water's edge. The proposed dock will be free standing at base of staircase and will have no stakes. The dock is being made by a firm in Nashua. There are also drop legs for the base of water line.

Doug Shepard asked if the staircase is in one piece? Yes. MK Schneeweis asked if the existing dock was permitted? It predates permitting. The dock and stairs will be disposed of properly.

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

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Kathy Rehl, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

George Bain, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Negative 3 determination, Doug Shepard moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Kathy Rehl, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

George Bain, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Request for Determination – 7 Davis Brook Drive

Matt Gardner read the public hearing notice. Robert Rochelle, homeowner, would like to install a 15 x 20 ft stone patio. He's the first owner and has been there twenty years. He showed a map where there is an old tree house. He would like to remove the tree house and build the patio on the footprint of it and an existing flower bed. It would be outside of the 25' No-Disturb and 40' No-Build zones. There will be no leveling or tree removal.

Matt Gardner asked what materials would be used. Pavers or blue stone that allows water to infiltrate. There is never standing water there. Matt also asked if it will be set on gravel or a pad. He might have to go down 4-6 inches with gravel to set the stone, but no concrete will be used.

Commission discussed permitting this evening, or continuing so they can put some perimeters on material and construction.

Applicant doesn't have a preference. There are two different materials available, but doesn't know much about either. Kathy Rehl has no concerns with project, but would like Mr. Rochelle to come back to discuss final decision on the materials he will be using. Matt requested to make it as impervious as possible.

Commission agreed to continue until materials being used is documented. Applicant would not have to attend next meeting. Mr. Rochelle would like to get it done within next six weeks.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to June 18th, Kathy Rehl moved, George Bain seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

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

B'nai – Israel Synagogue Trust – Benny Cohen – 0 Magnolia

Attorney, Amihad Avinoam, asked Commission what would be required from them to construct a single family house on the property. He understands there are many fines, violations and issues with the property.

Matt Gardner stated they would need documentation who the current owner is and that it be notarized. If an LLC, who the principle owners are. There were significant problems with the previous owner. We need to do our due diligence to know the current or future owner and status. Once we are satisfied, we would consider a Notice of Intent filing with the Natick Conservation Commission for any work on the property.

The Commission has to be comfortable that the current owner has no financial interest or otherwise outstanding fines to be paid.

Conservation Commission – Logo

Marianne Iarossi reviewed the three logos. The victory tree is the oldest in Natick. Commission agreed on the colors of illustration #1. No deer, liked the bird and other wildlife.

Kathy Rehl likes the frog and bird flying and the square format. Doug Shepard liked the tree moved to the right on #1, but liked the square format. MK Schneeweis doesn't like to shift the tree in square.

Marianne stated there is a budget on the edits. Have already spend \$2,000 on samples. The cost increases every time they go back to drawing board.

Matt Gardner likes #3 as is or with tree shifted. Is fine with the sense of Commission. #3 is where people are converging. Let's go with #3, frog and flying bird and tree shift. Expand the blue border. Kathy asked to make three sides smaller.

Open Space and Recreation

Marianne stated they are finalizing the Draft 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan next week. Trying to get on the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Recreation & Parks agendas. Suggested the Conservation Commission hold a joint meeting with Recreation & Parks at the next regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting. Marianne will check.

Marianne Iarossi – Davis Brook – Marianne mentioned adding an additional project to the administrative approval form but since it is not included on the agenda, we can discuss at next meeting.

Matt Gardner – regarding 0 Magnolia Road, he stated he and Marianne will be working with Town Council. Need to proceed carefully. The property was clear cut with no permits and work continued on the property even though the owner was informed of violations. The property/project is contentious with neighbors; erosion and damage on site. Contempt of court (\$128,00 never paid).

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

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote;

MK Schneeweis, yes

Doug Shepard, yes

Kathy Rehl, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

George Bain, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.