

Natick Conservation Commission
June 7, 2023

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

Major Stormwater Permit (continuation) – 21 Park Avenue

Applicant requested continuance to June 22, 2023. There will be revised plans still being drawn up and should be submitted for review before then.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to June 22nd, Doug Shepard moved, Mike Downey seconded, all in favor 4-0.

Matt Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes
Chris Stillman, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Request for Determination of Applicability (continuation) – 8 Crest Road

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to June 22nd, Chris Stillman moved, Mike Downey seconded, all in favor 4-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes
Chris Stillman, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Jeff Richards arrived at 7:12pm.

Request for Determination of Applicability – 20 Roundwood Road

Mr. Gardner read public meeting notice. The request is for the in place and in kind replacement of a deck, two sets of stairs on the front of the house, and pruning of two trees.

Susan McArthur, McArthur Environmental, representing Robert Klepper, gave a review of the project. The yard is fairly level and drops down to a wetland area. Sue McArthur delineated the property at the end of March. They will replace the existing 22'x20' deck. The plan is to utilize the existing footprint. The two front sets of brick steps will be replaced. Two trees on the side of the house are hanging over and they plan to prune them. Erosion control and sediment control will be installed.

Matt Gardner asked if the deck will be rebuilt on the existing pilings. Sue McArthur stated the existing support is not up to code and will be replaced with sturdier ones. Will helical screws be used? Sue stated there are six concrete pilings now. Three are out of whack and have shifted. They will replace three of the six pilings.

Matt asked about the amount of disturbance. Taking out existing concrete pilings and replace/install with sonotubes filled with concrete. The homeowner, Robert Klepper, said the builder just needs to replace the three, but he is not sure what they will be replaced with. Matt asked if the deck that is being replaced will be the same size. Yes.

Matt feels it's a pretty straight forward project. Mike Downey would like clarification on the Riverfront Area. Sue flagged the BVW line and then realized it is a perennial stream. She went out again and flagged the stream. Claire Rundelli stated it was an intermittent stream. Mike stated it shows up as Riverfront on GIS. Mike is not the expert; he just wants to make sure we are not going down the wrong path. Claire is comfortable with the project, but will double check her mapping. Mike wants to make sure, if it a perennial stream it is permitted appropriately, but he is fine with the project either way.

Matt feels there is nothing about this project that is not permissible, but better safe than sorry, so permit it as if it is Riverfront Area.

Matt Gardner asked for a motion to close, Mike Downey moved, Doug Shepard seconded, all in favor 5-0.

Matt Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes
Chris Stillman, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Negative 2 determination, Chris Stillman moved, Mike Downey seconded, all in favor 5-0.

Matt Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes
Chris Stillman, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Request for Determination of Applicability – 31 Indian Ridge Road

Mr. Gardner read public hearing notice. The request is for removal of an existing open, partially roofed deck and stairs, and the construction of a new enclosed porch with adjacent deck and associated stairs. Larry Cohen (Archadeck), representing John McGrath, gave a review of the proposal. There is an existing, aging, open-air deck. They would like to reduce the size of the open porch and the roof area will be decreased. They will use helical piers for the new deck and stairs. The property abuts the Charles River, just outside the 100', but within the 200'.

Matt Gardner asked is the support system rebuilt? Yes. Everything will be new with support posts. Claire recommended erosion control.

Larry Cohen shared the screen showing the compact machine that will be used. It is 31” wide and there will be no disturbance of soil. Matt agreed it is a less impervious service, less roof. Jeff Richards asked if there will be roof drains? Yes, the gutters will be in the same location.

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

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes
Chris Stillman, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Negative 2 and a Negative 3 Determinations, Doug Shepard moved, Chris Stillman seconded, all in favor 5-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes
Chris Stillman, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Request for Determination of Applicability – 21 Glen Street

Matt Gardner read public meeting notice. The request is for the clearing of vegetation for lawn and installation of riprap. No project representative was in attendance. Claire reached out to Dan Brown, High End Homes LLC, who responded well into the meeting that he was not able to attend. Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to continue to June 22nd, Chris Stillman moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 6-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes
Mike Downey, yes
Chris Stillman, yes
Jeff Richards, yes
Matt Gardner, yes

Request for Determination of Applicability - 88 Eliot Street

Matt Gardner read public meeting notice. The proposal is for decommissioning an existing failed septic system and connecting house to Town sewer.

Joyce Hastings (GLM Engineering) described the site. The plan is to abandon the failed cesspool in accordance with BOH requirements and connect to a pipe in the garden bed. Install a 1 ½ inch pip connection to sewer line in the street. It will cross the driveway and lawn. She described the direction of pipe. The project is within the inner riparian zone of river. The septic system was grandfathered. No changes in grades; a small amount of stockpiling stored in the garden. Any excess will be removed from the site. Likely a quick project.

Doug Shepard stated anytime connecting to sewer is good. Jeff Richards asked why that particular direction of pipe? All the plumbing comes out of that side of the house and it would be too expensive to relocate.

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to close, Chris Stillman moved, Mike Downey seconded, all in favor 5-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes

Mike Downey, yes

Chris Stillman, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

Mr. Gardner asked for a motion to issue a Negative 2 determination in the Riverfront area, Doug Shepard moved, Jeff Richards seconded, all in favor 5-0.

Mr. Gardner asked for a roll call vote:

Doug Shepard, yes

Mike Downey, yes

Chris Stillman, yes

Jeff Richards, yes

Matt Gardner, yes

General Business Discussion

Claire Rundelli introduced Molly as the Conservation Office summer intern.

Beaver Management Update for Oak Street Culvert

Claire reviewed installation of beaver deceiver. The water is a maximum height. The dam is 18” high. The water should be lower by mid-week. DPW will do another breach next week.

Jeff Richards drove by and noticed the flow going into Big Jennings Pond.

June 25th – Kramer family

There will be a dedication ceremony for Eddie’s Park on June 25th. The Commission is invited to attend and Claire will forward details.

DCR – Community Grant

The Town received word that we have received the DCR UCF Grant for the Pickerel Pond Stewardship Plan.

Nipmuc Meeting

A meeting is scheduled with all parties on July 12th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30.