



NORWELL CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Room 112 / 345 Main Street / Norwell, MA and Remote
781-659-8022
March 5, 2024 @ 6:30 PM
Minutes

Present: Chair Marynel Wahl, Vice Chair Bob Woodill, Bob McMackin, Ron Mott, Doug Luoma, Justin Ivas, Tricia DeGiulio, Conservation Agent Will Saunders, and Recording Clerk C. Sullivan. The meeting was held in the Conservation Office and by online conferencing.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Chair Marynel Wahl. The meeting was recorded.

AGENDA ACCEPTANCE

The Commission reviewed the proposed agenda.

Motion by Mr. Mott to approve the agenda as posted. Seconded by Mr. Woodill and unanimously voted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION Discussion of issues and/or land offers/land of interest, disclosure of which will impact negotiating position of the Commission and/or Town. Return to regular meeting.

The Commission polled into Executive Session at 6:30 PM to discuss land acquisition and then return to Open Session by roll call: Wahl, aye; Woodill, aye; Luoma, aye; Ivas, aye; Mott, aye; DeGiulio, aye. Mr. McMackin was not present for the poll-in.

COMMISSION BUSINESS

Citizen Comments

None

New Business

Upcoming Meetings

Mr. Saunders reviewed the list of upcoming meetings, including the upcoming MACC conference.

Conservation Day 2024

Mr. Saunders would like to hold another Conservation Day but move it to September, possibly coinciding with the South Shore Science Center's Corn Festival. The Commissioners indicated their support; Mr. Saunders will reach out to interested parties.

Norwell Cares 2024

The high school's "Norwell Cares" service day is set for September 26 with a rain date of September 27. All discussed possible projects, with Mr. Mott suggesting the placement of additional wetland crossings in the Wildcat trail system.

All discussed options for extending a trail starting from the Hemingway Flower Field parking lot to either loop around the field or access the back part of the property; Mr. Saunders indicated this was possible but would require the purchase of a back section of an abutter's property; Mr. McMackin suggested this might be eligible for CPC funding.

Old Business

2024 Farm Use Plans Reviews

The Commission approved Jon Haskins' Farm Use Plan for Stetson.

Motion by Mr. McMackin to approve the Farm Use Plan submitted by Jon Haskins for Stetson Meadows as proposed. Seconded by Mr. Mott and unanimously voted.

Whiting Fields Farm Use and Stonewall Maintenance Discussion

Mr. Saunders advised that the FY 25 budget would not include funding for summer interns, but there would be 6-8 senior Trail Crew workers, which he proposes to use to maintain the stone walls at Whiting and John Hornstra's fields once a month, from April to September. All agreed this plan could go forward as a pilot program, and that Hornstra would not be charged for this first year.

The Commission briefly discussed charging all farmers \$100 an acre for stone wall clearing if they did not wish to do it themselves, but Chair Wahl noted that these fees would end up in the General Fund, as opposed to Conservation, and Cross Street Flower Farm was already paying a private landscaper more to clear their walls.

Conservation FY25 Budget

The FY 25 budget presented to and approved by the Advisory Board does not include funding for summer interns or an increase in the Agent salary. Town Administrator Darleen Sullivan indicated that a third-party compensation study was ongoing, and she was willing to reconsider the request once it is completed. The budget does include a \$6K stipend for stormwater review work. Mr. Saunders advised Ms. Sullivan he could accept the budget as proposed. Commissioners Wahl, Woodill, and McMackin will ask Ms. Sullivan to reconsider the salary increase; a letter of support from all Commissioners has already been sent.

AGENT'S REPORT

Mr. Saunders advised that the Kayak access gate at Stetson Meadows had been removed. Mr. Mott has installed a temporary replacement and placed a trail camera to monitor the area.

Mr. Saunders would like to set up a volunteer work day to install additional wetland crossings and finish beaver dam removal work at Jacobs. He will reach out to the Boy Scouts and South Shore Votech for availability and interest.

Violations

Highway Septic Line

An after-the-fact Notice of Intent was received today for the septic line. John Chessia advised he could assist with a peer review but would recommend the Commission had an additional consultant(s) on hand. He also disclosed for the record that he has also consulted for Highways on other projects.

563 Grove

No Notice of Intent has been submitted to date; applicant called this afternoon asking for an extension. All agreed to allow one more month for the application to be filed, and then issue fines if there are further delays. Mr. Ivas noted the Commission had granted a similar extension to Highways for the septic line.

Carleton Trail

Mr. Saunders discovered an unauthorized trail with painted markers and a small structure in the Carleton property. He will send correspondence to three abutters.

Administrative Permits & Requests

110 Prospect

Mr. Saunders issued an administrative permit for the removal of an additional hazardous tree inspected by an arborist.

533 Grove

Mr. Saunders issued an administrative permit for the installation of a fence to enclose the yard.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

Trails

Mr. Mott recently replaced a small wetland crossing in the Carleton trail system.

Farming

Mr. Saunders advised that he had received no Farm Use Plans for Whiting except the Hornstra and Haskins offers. Haskins wants the Town to improve the soils, while Hornstra has proposed investing \$30,000 into the fields to do so in exchange for no stone walls maintenance. Commissioners Ivas and DeGiulio requested more information regarding Hornstra's proposed inputs. Chair Wahl asked Mr. Saunders to ask Hornstra to submit a Farm Use Plan for Whiting with details about inputs; the Commission will cover stone wall clearing for the year.

BILLS

The following bills were presented for payment:

Christopher Sullivan	Meeting Minutes	\$200.00
Doody Calls	Waste Stations	\$591.00 (Conservation Fund)
MACC	Conference Registrations	\$450.00 (\$150*3)

Motion by Mr. Ivas to pay the bills. Seconded by Ms. DeGiulio and unanimously voted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 20 meeting and the November 15, 2022 executive session were distributed.

Motion by Ms. DeGiulio to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2022 executive session as written. Seconded by Mr. McMackin and approved 5-0-1, Mr. Ivas having abstained.

Motion by Mr. Mott to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024 meeting as edited. Seconded by Mr. McMackin and approved 5-0-1, Mr. Ivas having abstained.

RECEIVED
MAR 20 AM 10:32
TOWN CLERK
WM OF NORWELL

7:00 PM

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGAL DOCUMENTS/VOTES

*Legal Documents/Votes *Minor Amendments, Reviews, *CoC's*Requests for Determination

*Notices of Intent *Enforcements/ Violations

33 Leigh Road / SE52-1206 & NCC# 5(21) / Construction of Single-Family Home

Request for CoC (cont.) App: Dave Seoane, Seoane Landscaping / Rep: Greg Morse, Morse Engineering

Applicant has provided letter confirming cleanup of the work area; 15 plantings are proposed in the 50 ft buffer, five each of sweet pepperbush, winterberry, and inkberry. Mr. Saunders advised that the Order of Conditions had been recorded and the required plantings were doing well. All agreed that the additional plantings did not require monitoring before issuance of the CoC but the matter was continued so Mr. Saunders could verify when the plantings are in. There was no public comment.

Motion by Mr. Mott to continue the matter to May 7, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. McMackin and unanimously voted.

42 Central Street / SE52-1229 & NCC# 49(21) / Minor Modification for Additional Hardscape &

Plantings Minor Mod. to OoC (cont.) Applicant: Ballyargus, LLC / Rep: Brendan Sullivan, Merrill Eng.

Mr. Sullivan has replaced his offer of 1200 square feet of onsite mitigation with \$3200 for offsite mitigation based on Brad Holmes' estimated 1600 square feet of disturbance; he has also added a split rail fence along the buffer line to prevent future encroachment.

Mr. Ivas asked Mr. Saunders if he had any site in mind for the offsite mitigation; Mr. Saunders indicated there were plenty of options, including Trout Brook or Fogg Forest. Mr. Ivas suggested that they be used at Fogg since it was nearby.

Mr. Saunders suggested that a stormwater review and major modification be required if the driveway remains. Mr. Sullivan was agreeable provided the Commission approve the mod when submitted. The Commissioners indicated they were willing to permit the driveway, fence, and all other changes with a major modification and offsite mitigation offered. Mr. Saunders suggested a catch basin may be needed for the driveway because as installed it adds stormwater to the road; Mr. Sullivan indicated applicant may take out the driveway if basins were needed, but Mr. Saunders thinks the issue could be addressed fairly easily.

There was no public comment. The matter was continued pending receipt of the new application; the minor mod fee will be applied to the new filing.

Motion by Mr. Mott to continue the matter to April 2, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Mr. Luoma and unanimously voted.

64 Simon Hill Road / SE52-xxxx & NCC# 5(24) / (After-the-Fact) Removal of Trees & Replacement

NoI / OoC Applicant: Erion Musaka / Representative: NA

Mr. Saunders advised that the hearing would have to be continued, as the DEP file number had not yet been received. The new owners of the property removed several trees without Conservation permitting. Most of these were rotted or hazardous and would have been approved administratively by Mr. Saunders; one pine was dropped into a wetland and remains there presently.

Applicants have been cooperative since being contacted, and are proposing to remove the pine from the wetland by hand and plant four replacements; they would also like to remove two additional hazard trees. Mr. Saunders has suggested Red Maple, Black Willow, or other native species for the replacements. The Commissioners viewed photos of the trees and agreed they would have permitted their removal.

Potential conditions of approval include the posting of three conservation markers along edge of lawn and grinding the stumps flush to the ground. There was no public comment. The matter was continued pending receipt of a DEP file number.


Motion by Mr. Ivas to continue the matter to March 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM. Seconded by Ms. DeGiulio and unanimously voted.

<i>Next Meeting</i>	March 19, 2024
<i>NEW filing applications due date/deadline</i>	<i>March 5, 2024 @ noon</i>
<i>Legal Notice publication date-Norwell Mariner</i>	<i>March 13, 2024</i>
<i>Revised Information submittal deadline</i>	<i>March 12, 2024 @ noon</i>
<i>Peer Review Supplemental Info Deadline, CoC Requests, Minor Modification & LP Requests</i>	<i>March 12, 2024 @ noon</i>
<i>Public Information Written Comments</i>	<i>No deadline</i>

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. McMackin to adjourn at 8:33 PM. Seconded by Mr. Luoma and unanimously voted.

I hereby certify that the above minutes were presented and approved by a majority vote of the Norwell Conservation Commission on 3/19/24.



Bob Woodill, Vice-Chair

RECEIVED
2024 MAR 20 AM 10:32
CLERK OF NORWELL
TOWN CLERK