

Weston Conservation Commission (WCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2023

Approved: January 17, 2023

Members Participating: Joe Berman (Chair), Rees Tullos, Ellen Freeman Roth, Glenn Butcher, Alison Barlow

Members Absent: Josh Feinblum,

Conservation Staff: Jordan McCarron, Joshua Baker

Notes: Pursuant to *An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations*, signed by Governor Baker on July 16th, 2022, which extends the expiration of the remote meeting provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. No in-person attendance of members of the public was available.

Joe Berman, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:45 PM with an opportunity for public comment.

Hearing none, the following hearings and meetings were taken up in order:

Cont. Notice of Intent: 57 Westcliff Road, DEP 337-1459; J. McGeough

The Applicant had requested a continuance to January 17th, 2023 at 7:45 pm while he continues to work through stormwater design with our Engineering Department and prepare subsequent tree mitigation and restoration plans.

A motion to continue the Notice of Intent hearing for 57 West Cliff Road, DEP 337-1459, to January 17th, 2023 at 7:45PM was made by Glenn Butcher; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 5-0.

Discussion: Administrative Approval for Permitting Invasive Plant & Restoration Projects

Joshua Baker presented a final Administrative Approval permit for invasive plant management and restoration work within the Buffer Zone along with a one-page Staff Guidance document that identifies the review process and proposed thresholds for approval.

The Commission requested further revisions to help clarify any restrictions within the 25-foot No Disturb Zone, as well as how strict the requirement of replacement/mitigation plantings should be. Additionally, the Commission requested some formatting changes and to attempt to combine the permit forms with existing forms and documents already in-use by Town residents.

The following Administration Matters were discussed throughout the meeting.

The approval of the 12/13/22 Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the 12/13/2022 Conservation Commission by Rees Tullos; seconded by Glenn Butcher. Roll call vote 4-0-1.

Request for Partial Certificate of Compliance-162 Winter Street, 337-1432

A motion to issue a Partial Certificate of Compliance for 162 Winter Street, DEP 337-1432, was made by Rees Tullos; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 5-0.

Continuance for Certificate of Compliance-667 Wellesley Street, 337-1397

A motion to continue consideration of the issuance of a Full Certificate of Compliance for 667 Wellesley street, DEP 337-1397, on January 17th, 2023 was made by Glenn Butcher; seconded by Rees Tullos. Roll call vote 5-0.

Discussion: Weston Wetlands Bylaw

- The working group will meet on 1/10/23 to review draft regulations with Town Counsel
- Joe Berman and Ellen Freeman Roth are working on an article for publication on the Town website and other online platforms.
- Jordan McCarron is working on an FAQ and presentations for future public meetings
- The Town's website manager is adding a webpage for information on the bylaw
- Commission members discussed scheduling two-three public outreach sessions at different days of the week/times of day closer to Town Meeting, as well as potential appearances before other Town boards as an extension of public outreach and education
- Additionally, the Commission discussed the importance of identifying possible opposition to the bylaw early as well as personally appealing to neighbors and friends to attend Town Meeting and vote yes.

Jordan McCarron provided updates on the following Land Management Issues

- December's Stewardship Saturday (which was rescheduled to Thursday the 29th due to weather) went well, with eight volunteers participating and agreeable weather. Work involved constructing two bog bridges and re-routing two short sections of trail at Cold Brook Stream Conservation Area.
- Planning for 2023 Stewardship and Land Management activities is currently underway- Commissioner Rees Tulloss is assisting Jordan McCarron and Conservation Staff Debbie Howell and Emily Schadler.

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 PM