

Weston Conservation Commission (WCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

April 12th, 2022

Approved: April 26th, 2022

Members Participating: Joe Berman (Chair), Rees Tullos, , Ellen Freeman Roth, Alison Barlow, Becca Loveys, Josh Feinblum,

Members Absent: Cynthia Chapra

Conservation Staff: Jordan McCarron

Notes: Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, which includes an extension of Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting was held via an online meeting platform (Zoom). No in-person attendance of members of the public was available.

Joe Berman (Chair) opened the meeting at 7:30 pm with an opportunity for public comment.

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

Cont. Notice of Intent: 355 Highland Street, DEP 337-1435; N. Keramaris

A motion to continue the Notice of Intent hearing for 355 Highland Street, DEP 337-1435, at the request of the applicant, to 5/10/22 at 8:00 pm. was made by Rees Tulloss; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 6-0.

7:45 p.m. Cont. Notice of Intent: 217 Summer St, DEP 337-1436; Howe Development Corp.

A motion to continue the Notice of Intent hearing for 217 Summer Street, DEP 337-1436, at the request of the applicant, to 5/10/22 at 7:45 pm. was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 6-0.

8:00 p.m. Notice of Intent: Rt. 128/Nickerson Field Well Abandonment, DEP 337-1445; Town of Weston Department of Public Works

Steve Daunais, Tata and Howard, provided an overview of the project on behalf of the Applicant, which involves abandoning the Route 128 and Nickerson Field Public Water Supply Wells. Drinking water for the Town of Weston is currently supplied by the MWRA and both of these wells have been inactive for over 40 years. Abandoning these wells will remove the Zone II protections that are still currently applied to these sites. The Route 128 Well is located at 0 River Road, and the Nickerson Field Well is located at 0 Ridgeway Road. Both locations are between the Massachusetts Turnpike (Interstate 90), Route 128/Interstate 95, and the associated ramps connecting the two highways.

The DPW intends to minimize the amount of disturbance necessary to abandon the Route 128 Well and the Nickerson Field Well. Work will begin with capping and sealing both wells and all penetrations to the underground vaults housing the wells with the vaults remaining in place. There is one hydrant at each well site that will be removed along with the valve boxes. No excavation will be required except for removing of the hydrants. Any displaced soil will be replaced with the existing soil and compacted to the original state. Access to the Nickerson Road well and fire hydrant will be via a gravel road off of Frontage Road. Excavation associated with the removal of the fire hydrant will be located at the edge of the 100-foot buffer zone.

A motion to close the Notice of Intent hearing and issue an Order of Conditions for the Rt. 128/Nickerson Field Well Abandonment Project, DEP 337-1445 was made by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 6-0.

The following Administrative Matters were taken up at various points throughout the meeting:

Approval of Con Com minutes: 3/29/22

A motion to approve the 3/29/22 minutes was made by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 6-0.

Approval: Weston Conservation Commission Invasive Plant Management Policy

A motion to adopt the Weston Conservation Commission Invasive Plant Management Policy was made by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Josh Feinblum. Roll call vote 6-0.

Ellen Freeman Roth suggested that a high school or college communications intern could be helpful for promoting invasive plant education in Weston; Ms. Freeman Roth agreed to work with Jordan McCarron on this.

Land Management Updates

Jordan McCarron is working with Michael Harrity and Laurie Bent on a proposal for possible stone wall maintenance at the Case Estates. Mr. Harrity is acting as liaison between the Select Board and the Conservation Commission to identify priority projects that could be funded with remaining CPA funding previously allocated to the Case Estates. Mr. McCarron will circulate the list of potential projects to the Commission and the Commission should be prepared to weigh-in on prioritizing the possible projects at its 4/26/22 meeting.

Mr. McCarron submitted an ARPA funding request to the Select Board for parking lot improvements at Gun Club Lane and trail improvements at Jericho Town Forest and Cat Rock- the Select Board is expected to vote on the expenditure at its 4/12/22 meeting.

Discussion: Wetlands Bylaw

Jordan McCarron updated the Commission that he and Sandra Gonneville have encountered a number of remaining questions/items in need of the Commission's input and review before a draft Bylaw can be finalized.

The Commission discussed the Bylaw process thus far and how best to proceed. Joe Berman suggested that the Bylaw Working Group convene to address the remaining questions/items with Alison Barlow arguing in favor of involving the entire Commission. Both Ms. Barlow and Becca Loveys suggested that outreach and education are still critical; Ms. Loveys suggested that the controversy surrounding the proposed Private Tree Protection Bylaw may influence how much of and what type of outreach the Commission needs to do.

Mr. Berman directed Mr. McCarron to schedule a special meeting of the Commission to work on the remaining questions/items for the draft Bylaw; Ms. Barlow volunteered to develop an agenda for the meeting.

Discussion: Water Storage Tank Replacement Project

Jordan McCarron updated the Commission on a proposed Water Tank Committee that will be convened by the Select Board with required participation from one Conservation Commissioner and the Administrator. Once the Select Board develops an official charge for the Committee, the Commission should expect to appoint a sitting member. Alison Barlow agreed to sit on the Committee.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 pm was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth.
Roll call vote 6-0.