

Weston Conservation Commission - Public Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2019

Approved: May 28, 2019

Members Present: Joseph Berman (Chair), Alison Barlow, Cynthia Chapra, Josh Feinblum, and Rees Tulloss
Members Absent: Ellen Freeman Roth
Conservation Staff: Michele Grzenda
Others Present: See Sign-in Sheet

7:30 p.m. Admin. Matters

1. Joseph Berman was appointed Chair for the evening
2. Interview with Conservation Commission member applicant: Catherine Bassick discussed her interest in serving on the Conservation Commission (Ms. Bassick subsequently withdrew her interest in serving on the Commission).
3. Approval of 4/30/19 Con Com minutes – Motion by Joseph Berman to approve; seconded by Alison Barlow; vote: 5:0:0.
4. Signing of bills and documents
5. Mowing Contract Update – The Agent informed the Commission that Conservation Office is working with the Procurement Officer to put together a Request for Quotes to conduct field mowing in FY20.
6. Trail Use Permit Requests approved:
 - o K. Barbieri (WFTA) – June 8th – trail work
 - o Cub Scout Pack 156 Trail hike: 5/18/19
7. The Agent informed the Commission of DPW's request to allow the Town Center Contractor to stockpile town center material at the Compost Dump
8. Next Con Com Meeting will be May 28, 2019

7:45 p.m. Request for Minor Plan Change – shed relocation and fence installation – 37 Wellesley Street:

The owner (Mr. Schulman) requested a continuance to May 28th at 8:30 p.m.

8:00 p.m. Enforcement Order – 276 North Ave. Gilman Miranda

The Commission issued an Enforcement Order on 5/3/19 for unpermitted alteration of Riverfront Area at 276 North Ave and asked that the owner attend tonight's meeting to explain his intention. The owner wishes to conduct additional work in Riverfront Area and construct a bridge over Stony Brook. The Owner is seeking guidance on what type of filing will be necessary to conduct the work. The owner has hired Jillson Company to assess the property and prepare a plan. In the short-term, the landowner wishes to install a fence on the eastern side of his property line. The Commission may be able to administratively approve a fence installation at the next meeting if the owner (1) prepares a sketch showing the location of said fence and submit it to the Conservation Office by 5/23/19. The owner will contact the Agent to schedule a site visit.

8:30 p.m. Informal Meeting: 156 Cherry Brook Road

The Owners wish to remove some old forsythia plants and plant an area adjacent to their driveway with lawn and native shrubs. Some of the plantings they wish to remove are within the NDZ. They are seeking guidance on what type of filing will be necessary to conduct the work. It was the Commission's opinion that an RDA would be acceptable. The owner will work with the Agent to file the appropriate paperwork.

8:45 p.m. Information meeting: 38 Cedar Road; J. Cohen

The owner proposes to make the following improvements on his land: 1. rebuild a fallen down stone wall. Work will entail smoothing out the ground a bit and re-stacking the rock wall in the approximate same location. Since all this work is outside the 100-foot buffer zone, the Commission agreed that the owner can conduct this work without further permission. 2. Convert the existing mossy yard near the pond to a manicured yard. When asked what that would entail, the owner stated that he had not discussed it with his landscaper and therefore was unsure what work it would entail. Because this area is within the NDZ and BZ, it was the Commission's opinion that the owner would need to file an application if the work entailed removing the existing vegetation, bringing in loam, and seeding the area with a manicured lawn. The commission would not allow the installation of a sprinkler system in NDZ. 3. Remove and existing dilapidated wooden split rail fence and replace and expand it with a black plastic or metal fence. The footings would be re-dug by hand. Since the existing fence is outside the NDZ, the Commission was ok with the owner removing and replacing in-

kind, but not expanding the fence closer to the pond (it is ok to expand the fence further away from the pond). Prior to work, the Commission requires that the owner notify the Agent what type of fence would be installed and for the Agent to measure the distance of the fence to the pond to ensure the fence does not move closer to the pond. The Commission was amendable to the owner installing native plants or a boulder in the gap b/w the pond in the fence to discourage Meadowbrook School students and staff from trespassing. 4. “clean up” the edge of the pond by removing all the dead wood. The Agent indicated that dead (downed) natural woody debris, leaf litter, and other natural material are considered wildlife habitat and creates an important buffer to the pond. The Commission generally prohibits landowners from conducting this kind of work so close to wetlands.

Request for Minor Plan Change – 126 Beaver Road; (337-1284); J. Lavoie, Jillson Company

Jason Lavoie, Jillson Company, requested the Commission approve a minor plan change at 126 Beaver Road. The Commission issued an Order of Conditions on 2//7/17 for the construction of a new house and associated work including construction of a septic system and some drainage infrastructure within the Riverfront Area. The OOC approved the alteration of 4,760 s.f of Riverfront Area. During construction, the site contractor constructed a boulder retaining wall extending into the 200-foot Riverfront Area, and was approximately 8-feet high in some locations. The proposal is to remove this boulder wall and replace it with a shorter boulder wall as shown on the revised plan. The proposed wall and grading will mitigate the grading and current wall issues. The wall will be placed within the original approved limit of work. The outflow from Recharge Basin #2 will not be installed into the Riverfront area as proposed and therefore, that area will not be disturbed, as originally proposed. The proposed final alteration to the riverfront area will be 4,756 s.f. of disturbance, whereas 4,760 s.f. of disturbance was originally approved. Motion by Alison Barlow to approve as a minor plan change; seconded Josh Feinblum; vote 5:0:0.

5 Concord Road – Upcoming ZBA Hearing

The Commission was notified that the ZBA will hold a public hearing on June 3, 2019 on an application requesting a variance for a dog enclosure. The owner has installed an 8-foot high dog fence within 20 feet of the back property line. The property abuts Conservation Land. It was the Commission’s opinion that the property owner property adhere to the setback rules and therefore, relocate the fence at least 35-feet from the property line.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.