

Weston Conservation Commission (WCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

Approved: July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

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

Members Absent: Becca Loveys, Alison Barlow

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, to July 12<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 8:00 pm by request of the applicant was made by Rees Tulloss; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 4-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 32 Shady Hill Road, RDA 2022-012; B. Marett.

Louis Marett, Applicant, provided an overview of the project, which involves construction of a stone retaining wall and adjacent blue stone patio. The proposed wall is approximately 18 inches high and 50 feet in length and will be set in stone dust with no foundation. The work would also involve the construction of a 140 sq. ft. blue stone patio. The construction access for the work would be via the driveway and side yard. While the area of the proposed work is currently managed as turf lawn, adjacent Bordering Vegetated Wetland (BVW) projects a 25-foot No Disturb Zone (NDZ) into the project area.

Jordan McCarron, Conservation Administrator, explained that the proposed wall and patio are in close proximity to Mr. Marett's sub-surface septic leach field and impermeable barrier; however, Kelly Pawluczzonek, Public Health Director, confirmed by e-mail to Mr. McCarron on 6-21-22 that the proposed work would not interfere with the septic components.

Joe Berman requested that Mr. Marett provide evidence that he made every effort to avoid work within the NDZ. Due to the constraints of the septic system and Town drainage easement in his backyard, Mr. Marett explained that his proposed wall and patio were pulled as far from the NDZ as possible.

Mr. McCarron offered to work with Mr. Marett on suggesting some low-mow seed mixes for the area of lawn currently within the NDZ as a better ecological alternative- Mr. Marett indicated he would be amenable to making that change.

A motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination for 32 Shady Hill Road, DOA 2022-012 was made by Rees Tulloss; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 4-0.

Notice of Intent: 58 River Road, DEP 337-1453, Robert & Sarah Soloman

Jeff Hassett, Morse Engineering Company, provided an overview of the project on behalf of the Applicant, which involves a raze and rebuild of a single-family dwelling with all associated appurtenances and complete all associated site work. The work proposed in the 100-foot buffer zone includes grading, constructing a reconfigured driveway and installation of guardrail, stormwater drainage infrastructure, a stormwater rain garden, removal of two sheds, and a corner of the proposed septic leaching field.

Erosion control barriers (mulch sock and siltation fence) are proposed down gradient of proposed disturbance and exposed soil areas will be loamed and seeded immediately following construction. One of the sheds scheduled for removal is within 10-feet of an Isolated Vegetated Wetland- however, because IVW's are not a protectable resource area under the Wetlands Protection Act, no regulated work is proposed in the 25-foot No Disturb Zone.

The Commission had no substantive comments.

A motion to close the Notice of Intent hearing for 58 River Road, DEP 337-1453 and issue an Order of Conditions was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 4-0.

Notice of Intent: 6 Alphabet Lane, DEP 337-1454, Town of Weston Recreation Dept.

Tom Scarlata, Bargmann, Hendrie and Archetype, Inc, provided an overview of the project on behalf of the Applicant, which involves the expansion of the existing bathroom building and concession stand; renovation and expansion of the existing entry building with new bathrooms and renovated outdoor shower stations; construction of a new splash pad/water play area; improvements to the pool filter system; new accessible walkways connecting the pool to the support buildings; and modest landscape improvements.

Mark Novak, Activitas, provided an overview of the Resource Area impacts from the project. The entire project will be contained within the existing pool perimeter fence, which coincides with the 25-foot No Disturb Zone (NDZ) boundary. A forced sewer main will be trenched-in adjacent to the NDZ though no work or impact is expected within the NDZ itself. The project area does contain Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF); however, there is no proposed change in elevation and no fill will be used within BLSF.

Chris Fitzgerald, Recreation Director, explained that the project provides some much-needed deferred maintenance on the pool in addition to increasing the revenue potential for the pool- since the pool is self-funded through an Enterprise Fund, it is important that the pool remain modern and attractive to families in Weston. In response to a question by Rees Tulloss, Mr. Fitzgerald explained that the pool water is only drawn down in spring prior to opening the pool; this allows all pool chemicals time to dissipate.

A motion to close the Notice of Intent hearing for 6 Alphabet Lane/Memorial Pool, DEP 337-1454 and issue an Order of Conditions was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 4-0.

Cont. Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation: 225 Winter Street, DEP 337-1452\*; Cutting Edge Homes

A motion to continue the ANRAD hearing for 225 Winter Street, DEP 337-1452, at the request of the applicant, to July 12th, 2022 at 8:15 pm was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 4-0.

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

Approval of Con Com minutes: 5/24/22 & 6/7/22

A motion to approve the 5/24/22 minutes was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 4-0.

A motion to approve the 6/7/22 minutes was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Rees Tulloss. Roll call vote 4-0.

Request for Certificate of Compliance-85 Newton Street; DEP 337-1412

A motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 85 Newton Street, DEP 337-1412 was made by Rees Tulloss; seconded by Josh Feinblum. Roll call vote 4-0.

Request for Certificate of Compliance (Re-Issue)-11 Ridgeway Road; DEP 337-1181

A motion to re-issue a Certificate of Compliance for 11 Ridgeway Road, DEP 337-1181 was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 4-0.

Request for Certificate of Compliance-11 Ridgeway Road; DEP 337-0617

A motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 11 Ridgeway Road, DEP 337-0617 was made by Josh Feinblum; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth. Roll call vote 4-0.

Request for Certificate of Compliance-39 Pine Street; DEP 337-1378

A motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 39 Pine Street, DEP 337-1378 by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Josh Feinblum. Roll call vote 4-0.

New Commissioner Interviews: Glen Butcher

Glenn Butcher provided a brief introduction and personal history for the Commission; Mr. Butcher is a former board member of the South park Conservancy in New Jersey where he led the invasive plant removal team on that property. He was born near the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and developed a lifelong interest in conservation and environmental protection. Mr. Butcher explained that he is eager to serve the Town in a volunteer capacity and was drawn to the Conservation Commission due to its reputation as a pragmatic, well-run and collegial board.

A motion to recommend Glen Butcher to the Select Board for appointment for a 3-year term as a new Conservation Commissioner was made by Joe Berman; seconded by Josh Feinblum. Roll call vote 4-0.

*Note: Ellen Freeman Roth left the meeting at 8:30 pm. Jordan McCarron provided the following land management update at this time.*

Land Management Updates

Mr. McCarron provided a short report on the Stewardship Saturday program that occurred on June 11<sup>th</sup>- the project involved removal of Japanese Knotweed at the Dickson Riding Ring and attracted around 12 volunteers. The group also completed another cutting of Knotweed at the Brush Dump- a site that the Conservation Department began managing in 2021.

Jim Anza has been working on improvements at the Community Gardens as well as field edge clearing at Wellington Farm and Jennings Field. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Anza will commence mowing on the group of fields selected for July mowing.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.