

Conservation Commission
January 18, 2024 - 7:00 PM
140 Main St. – Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor (Memorial Hall)

Approved Feb 1, 2024

Members Present: Edward Clancy-Chairman, Allan White, William Dunbar, John Skarin, Karin Paquin, Dennis Demers, Dave Williams; also present, Priscilla Ryder-Conservation officer & new Associate Member Liz Austin

Members Absent: none

The hearing was recorded using Microsoft Teams

Public hearings

- **Request for Determination of Applicability**
Various Streets Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) City Of Marlborough- Ted Scott
City of Marlborough DPW request confirmation of the wetland resource areas along various streets within the City of Marlborough to determine sensitive areas for the city's 5-year roadside Vegetation Management Plan.

Chris White DPW General Forman for Forestry Parks and Cemetery was present. He explained that the 5-year Vegetation Management Plan is up for renewal and as part of that the Conservation Commission must verify the wetlands that are near roads in the city so that the spray restrictions can be followed. A plan was presented showing the wetland areas and highlighting the spray zone restrictions in various colors. The plan has not changed since the last plan. Ms. Ryder has reviewed the plan and noted that there is a narrative along with the plan explaining each of the wetland areas shown. The Commission asked questions regarding how herbicides are sprayed, whether mechanical controls are used, what is being used, and how to effectively control Japanese Knotweed. Mr. White explained that roadside vegetation control is done by mechanical means and herbicides. When herbicides are used, they spray from a vehicle or by hand, only ½ the city is sprayed at a time, the other ½ is mowed and then it switches the next year. They rotate chemicals so they remain effective. This past year they used 2/3 less chemicals. The chemicals tend to knock out the roots. For Knotweed control, mowing weekly over 1-3 years can get rid of patches, very labor intensive.

After further discussion the hearing was closed. On a motion by Mr. White, second by Chair to approve the plans as presented along with the description, the Commission voted unanimously 7-0 to approve.

- **Notice of Intent**
686 Forest St. – Charles Doty- (Continued from January 4, 2024 meeting)
Construction of a 60,000 square foot commercial use building. Work near wetlands.
(Review draft order of conditions)

Brian Jones of Allan and Major Associates was present representing the applicant. He noted that a DEP # had been issued in the afternoon and hoped the Commission could close and issue the permit. As there were no further questions for the audience or Commission the hearing was closed. The Commission reviewed the draft order and had comments on several of the conditions which required clarification. On a motion by Mr. White second by Chair to approve the Order of Conditions as drafted and amended, the Commission voted unanimously 7-0 to approve.

Discussion

541 Pleasant St. violation resolution update- Ms. Ryder noted that she has spoken to the owner and consultant and they plan to have information for the next meeting. The owner had also asked her if he could remove the one large remaining tree. The Commission was not in favor of any tree removal until this violation is resolved. This item was continued to the next meeting.

Correspondence/Other Business- none.

Next Conservation Commission meetings, February 1 & 15, 2024

Adjournment, there being no further business on a motion by Mr. Demers second by Mr. Clancy to adjourn, the Commission voted unanimously to approve 7-0. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted.

Priscilla Ryder
Conservation/ Sustainability Officer
PR/cs