

CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Conservation Commission Meeting
April 1, 2021 (Thursday) 7:00 PM

This meeting was conducted virtually via remote participation and recorded using the Microsoft Team's platform.

Chairman Clancy read the following notice: *"Due to statewide emergency actions limiting the size of public gatherings in response to COVID-19, this meeting will be held virtually with remote participation and will be closed to in-person attendance." The public can participate via Microsoft Teams. The "link" will be posted on the City's and Conservation's websites: <https://www.marlbrough-ma.gov/>"*

Present: By roll call – remotely: Karin Paquin, William Dunbar, John Skarin, and Edward Clancy. In Memorial Hall: David Williams, Dennis Demers, and Allan White. Also present was Priscilla Ryder, Conservation Officer.

Absent: none

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of March 18, 2021 were reviewed. On a motion to accept and place on file by Mr. Skarin and second by Mr. Demers the minutes were unanimously approved 7-0 on a roll call vote.

Public Hearings:

Request for Determination of Applicability

D'Angelo Dr. pump station - City of Marlborough - DPW

Mr. Tom DiPersio, City Engineer, was present and explained that the DPW proposes to construct a new water line connection and new back up pump station facility at D'Angelo Dr. (Map 115 Parcel 10) near wetlands. He noted that the wetland buffer zone only covers a portion of this project where the MWRA connection is to be made. Work includes placing piping connections from the MWRA and existing pump station to the new station and out to the street. This new system will assist in making sure there is no loss in service if something should happen to the existing pump station, or if it needs maintenance. He explained that the work will go through the detention basin that exists on site and will tie into the water pipes on the MWRA site which is a very deep excavation along their roadway. The existing detention basin can be modified during construction to act as a settling/dewatering basin. At the MWRA section the cut is 25' deep and is less deep at the detention basin location. He expects dewatering to be needed. The new pump chambers will be installed within concrete vaults. The Commission inquired as to timing and construction

sequencing. Mr. DiPersio explained that they will start as soon as permits are granted, and equipment ordered is delivered. Construction sequencing can be reviewed during the preconstruction meeting. After some discussion about the water pressure and access points, and there being no further questions from the Commission or the public, the hearing was closed. On a motion by Mr. Skarin second by Edward Clancy-Chairman, to issue a negative determination with standard conditions. The Commission voted unanimously 7-0, on a roll call vote to approve the motion.

Abbreviation Notice of Intent

587 Bolton Street – Bolton Street Tavern

Mr. John Stournaras and Mrs. Sharon Stournaras were both present. Mr. Stournaras explained that he proposes to add a covered gazebo and bar gazebo structure with a fire pit and bocce/horseshoe court on existing lawn area near Ft. Meadow Reservoir. The outdoor seating during COVID in 2020 was very successful and he would like to make some permanent structures on the lawn to be able to continue that activity. The work will involve removing the loam for the walkway and gazebo and install the walkway and open wall gazebo structures. Ms. Ryder noted that she had been to the site with Mr. Dunbar and noted that many of the shrubs along the shoreline had been cut to the base. The edge of wetland appears to be edge of lawn which is above the high-water mark. She believes the 30' setback from the lake is still being met, but the wetland is not shown on the plan, just the high-water mark. She also shared the FEMA flood map layer on the GIS map to show that the structures would be outside of the 100-year floodplain. The Commission asked that the plans be revised to show the elevations, and that the buildings be staked out in the field so the members could observe that. There was discussion about the shrubs that had been cut and a need for a maintenance protocol so the wetland and buffer zone vegetation can function as a filter. Also noted was that one of the curbs along the parking lot had been dislodged and needs to be replaced. Mr. Stournaras explained that last year they had a similar set up with tents, the gazebo will be more permanent. Customers will use the walkway to the building to use the facilities, no utilities or facilities are included in this plan. All excess soil will be removed from the site. The Commission discussed the current drainage system and drainage ditch and wanted confirmation that this work would not change that. After some discussion the Commission noted they wanted to see a revised plan showing elevation, erosion controls, and to have the location staked before the next meeting so members could see it. There being no further questions, the hearing was continued to the April 15th agenda.

Notice of Intent (Continued from March 18, 2021)
146 Phelps St. – Delray Realty Trust

Mr. Bob Parente P.E and Mr. David Winski were both present. Mr. Parente explained that he had done a redesign of the plans which shows one driveway to the garage building that splits into a Y to access the new barn building and the old garage entrance. This revised plan allows for the restoration of 2,600 sq. ft. of Riverfront area to Mowry Brook. It reduces the curb cut as required by the City Engineer. The Commission asked if the Riverfront area to be restored will include plants and trees. Mr. Parente said he would work with Ms. Ryder to come up with a plan. Mr. Dunbar noted that he had expected to see the driveway come in outside of the first 100' Riverfront area so even more riverfront area could be restored. Ms. Ryder noted the same. Mr. Parente indicated that the grades are better using the existing driveway entrance and that it is narrowed down in size already on this plan. The Commission asked about erosion controls. Mr. Parente noted that there is a note on the plan, but no symbol since the plan was getting too busy. Mr. Clancy noted that the current design requires less of a cut into the hill and thus less disturbance. Mr. White asked for a better planting plan. After some discussion and there being no further questions, the hearing was continued to the April 15th meeting to allow for a revised plan with planting notes to be provided. The Commission asked Ms. Ryder to draft a set of conditions as well.

Notices of Intent

At the applicant's request, prior to the meeting, to continue the hearing to April 15, 2021 in order to have time to provide the needed information for both of these hearings. The Commission continued the hearing to April 15th.

Notice of Intent

"0" Phelps St. (next to 107 Phelps) - David Franca

Proposes to construct a new house on a vacant lot within the Riverfront Area of Mowery Brook. Map 72, Parcels 11B and 702.

AND

Notice of Intent (applicant request to continue to April 15, 2021)

107 Phelps St. - David Franca

Proposes to construct a driveway across this lot within the Riverfront Area and buffer zone of Mowery Brook. Map 72, Parcel 11A.

Discussion/Correspondence

- Letter from KCO Realty Trust, Kevin O'Malley, dated March 17, 2021 RE: Roosevelt St.- The Commission accepted and placed on file

- Yearly Operational Plan 2021 - Ms. Paquin asked whether vernal pools are shown on the map, as spraying is prohibited near them. Ms. Ryder indicated these could be added and she'll work to see these are included in the future.


Other Business: items which were not reasonably anticipated until after the agenda was posted:

- Turtle Survey at The Desert Natural Area - Ms. Ryder received a request from John Vieira from AECOM to continue the turtle study along the railroad line and pipeline in Marlborough which has been going on for several years. The Commission noted this was fine and on a motion by Ms. Paquin, second by Edward Clancy, to approve the turtle survey for 2021. The Commission voted unanimously 7-0 on a roll call vote to approve.
- Minor exempt projects - Ms. Ryder noted that she has received request for minor exempt projects and will, going forward, provide an update of which projects have been granted approval through this exemption. She will require utilities and DPW to send an e-mail with their request, but small sheds or other minor projects she will just report. The Commission agreed to this protocol.
- Tree removal at Lake Williams behind Court House - Ms. Ryder noted that the large beach tree behind the courthouse on Williams St. and near Lake Williams is dying and the DPW would like to remove it. They also would like to work on removing some huge patches of bittersweet which are pulling down mature trees. Some of this work is within the buffer zone and the DPW will be filing a Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA) for this work. The Commission agreed that the tree work on the dead tree could proceed prior to the RDA filing as it was far enough away from the lake. Ms. Ryder will convey to DPW.
- Barker Ranger Program - Ms. Ryder noted that she is working with the 5 groups who manage the Desert Natural Area. Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) has put together a program to help educate dog owners to keep dogs on leash in this area to help protect wildlife. A training program for volunteers is being held next week and then the program will be unrolled at the various property entrances to get better compliance with making sure dogs remain on leash and not just at the parking lot. Ms. Ryder and Ms. Paquin will be doing the training and education.

Next Conservation Commission meetings: April 15, 2021 and May 6, 2021.

Adjournment - There being no further business, on a motion by Mr. Skarin, second by Edward Clancy, to adjourn. The vote to approve was unanimous 7-0 on a roll call vote. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer