

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
November 18, 2021(Thursday)
Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall
7:00 PM

Present: Edward Clancy-Chairman, Allan White, Dennis Demers, John Skarin, Karin Paquin and William Dunbar. and Priscilla Ryder - Conservation Officer was also present.

Absent: David Williams

Approval of Minutes: The minutes Nov. 4, 2021 were reviewed and on a motion by Mr. White second by Mr. Clancy, to approve. The Commission voted unanimously to approve 6-0.

Public Hearings: None

Draft Order of Conditions:

DEP 212-1246 – 2 Minehan Ln.

The Commission reviewed the draft Order of Conditions. When discussing the cattail removal, the owner of the property Christina Burbeck asked questions about digging out the rhizomes and the inability to cut. The Commission discussed options and determined that since they didn't know the timing of things, they would discuss this during the preconstruction meeting required in one of the conditions. The Condition would allow this activity with details to follow. After further discussion about material removal etc. on a motion by Mr. White second by Mr. Clancy, to approve the Order of Conditions as drafted and amended, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve.

Extension Permit:

DEP 212-1205 377 Simarano Dr. – Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation Ron Strohsahl, PWS | Staff Scientist from Oxbow Associates was present and explained that they are requesting an extension to the delineation that was done several years ago. They are requesting a 1-year extension. Ms. Ryder noted that she has seen the refurbished flags in the field and recommended approval of this requests. On a motion by Mr. White and second by Mr. Clancy, to approve a one-year extension permit on this ANRAD, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve.

Certificate of Compliance:

DEP 212-1056 185-191 Mill St. - Fay School Athletic Fields - Ms. Ryder noted that this site has been completed for some time, but never received a Certificate of Compliance. Most of the work was in Southborough. Upon inspection of the site and file she recommended issuance of a full Certificate of Compliance for this project. On a motion by Mr. White, second by Mr. Clancy, to issue a full Certificate of Compliance, the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to approve.

DEP 212-272 and 212-536 - 67 Langelier Ln. (Lot 5) - Ms. Ryder noted that the lawyers for this lot have found these two Orders of Conditions attached to this 67 Langelier Ln. Both do not apply to this particular lot, however, are attached to the title. To clear the title the lawyers are asking for a release of these Orders of Conditions from this lot. Ms. Ryder indicated this was an appropriate action. On a motion by Mr. Skarin, second by Mr. Clancy, to issue full Certificates of Compliance for both Orders of Conditions noting that they do not apply to this lot, the Commission voted unanimously 6-0 to approve.

DEP 212-1206 176 Farm Rd. - The new owners were present. Ms. Ryder noted the site is stable, the wetland markers are in place and all the paperwork is in order except the deed language which she is working with the owners to get. The Commission reviewed the photos provided and agreed to issue a full Certificate of Compliance for this lot with the caveat that Ms. Ryder hold the document until the deed language has been submitted. On a motion by Mr. White and second by Mr. Clancy to approve a full Certificate of Compliance as noted above, the Commission voted 6-0 to approve.

DEP 212-1217 78 Roosevelt St. - Mr. O'Malley was present and indicated that the site had just been hydroseeded that evening and he sent photos to Ms. Ryder. The Commission noted that the detention basin has not drained and has standing water. The Commission was satisfied with the house and invasive plant removal that was required but was not satisfied yet with the detention basin. They discussed issuing a partial Certificate of Compliance for the house and yard with the exception of the detention basin, knowing that the new buyer wanted to move in. After some discussion, on a motion by Mr. White and seconded by Mr. Clancy, to issue a partial Certificate of Compliance as noted. The Commission voted 6-0 to approve a partial certificate excluding the detention basin.

Discussion/Correspondence:

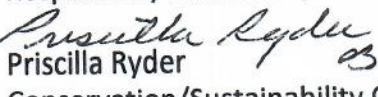
- **2022 Grant Round – Mass trails Grants** - Ms. Ryder noted that a grant round is now open for funding for trails projects. The application is due in February 2022. She asked that the Commission think about any projects that could use this type of funding. The Commission will let her know of any ideas.
- **Desert Natural Area – Pitch Pine Scrub Oak Restoration** - Ms. Ryder and Ms. Paquin explained that the state will be doing their harvest of the red pine and other trees on the state parcel within the Desert Natural Area this fall. An opportunity to seek funding to also harvest the city parcel is available through a grant process. They asked the Commission if it was acceptable to submit a grant application to accomplish 3 tasks: Remove the logs and snags which remain after the last prescribed burn in 2014, to do the logging of two sections near the original fire location and to improve the fire breaks on the city and SVT parcels in anticipation of future burn activity to restore the pitch-pine scrub oak habitat which is an endangered and declining habitat. The Commission agreed to support the application and thanked Ms. Paquin for her work on the grant.

- 107 Simarano Dr. – Green District - Discuss Trail System around the Pond
Mr. John Shipe, Erik Rains LA, Mitch Maslanka of Goddard Consulting were present. They explained that the owner is interested in pursuing a trail system around the pond as an amenity to the housing development now under construction. Tonight, they just wanted some feedback before filing a full Notice of Intent to see if the Commission had any thoughts on the plans. Mr. Rains presented a colored map showing the proposed trail some outside the 20' no disturb zone and some within the 20' no disturb buffer zone. It also includes seating areas and proposed trailhead signs and emergency call boxes. The vision is that it would be a woods trails with one additional stream crossing that would be constructed with helical piers. Would be a woods trail with wood mulch surface. The approximate length of the loop would be 1 mile. Mr. Demers suggested looking into a fiberglass span similar to what was used at the country club. Ms. Ryder was asked to share that design. The Commission further discussed the need to remove invasive plants and restore the area with native plants and plan for ongoing maintenance of these areas to keep the invasive plants at bay. Mr. Maslanka explained that they have specified seed mixes that will be used to restore the areas both an upland and a wetland mix. The trail would be constructed by hand since it will be difficult to get machines in place. If the trail is an acceptable idea, they would permit it this winter and hope to build it in the spring, as it will be an asset to the development. After some discussion the Commission said in general, they were in favor of the trail as long as it could be moved out of the 20' buffer zone. Mr. Rains indicated that the current design has the trail only impacting 10% of the 20' buffer zone. The Commission asked to walk it now before it snows. December 3rd at 1:00 PM was set for a site walk. The applicant will take all comments back and review and redesign the trail accordingly. Given that the Commission had no objections they will proceed and file a Notice of Intent this winter.

Next Conservation Commission meeting: Dec. 2 and Dec. 16, 2021

Adjournment. There being no further discussion the meeting was adjourned with a motion by Mr. White, second by Mr. Clancy to adjourn. The Commission voted 6-0 to approve.

Respectfully submitted,


Priscilla Ryder
Conservation/Sustainability Officer