Chairman Edward Clancy opened the meeting and read the announcement that the meeting was being held virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic as required by the Governor, and that the meeting was being held on the Microsoft Teams platform and was being recorded as outlined on the agenda.

**Present:** On a roll call vote with the following yea: Edward Clancy-chairman, Dennis Demers, William Dunbar, Karin Paquin and Allan White, and 5 members present. Also present was Priscilla Ryder Conservation Officer.
(David Williams arrived late as noted below)

**Absent:** John Skarin

** Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of October 1, 2020 were approved on a motion by Mr. Demers, second by Ms. Paquin to accept the minutes as written 5-0 with the following yea: Edward Clancy-chairman, Dennis Demers, William Dunbar, Karin Paquin, and Allan White

**Public hearings:**

**Notice of Intent – Continued from Sept. 17 to Oct. 1st**

192 Reservoir St. - David Dowd

David Dowd, owner, and Bruce Saluk P.E. were both present. Mr. Dowd explained that the revised plans reflect the items noted and discussed during the site visit. Chairman Clancy noted that the 16’ long deck puts the deck 9’ from the lake. Mr. Saluk agreed that is what is shown on the plans. Mr. Dowd noted that the decks would be elevated with helical piers as discussed. The walls and decks were discussed. Mr. Saluk noted that the wall at the lower deck will be modified so the deck will be over the wall. The Commission discussed the existing conditions which has a 3’ wide walkway now proposing to extend to 8’ wide from the foundation. Mr. Clancy noted that the Floodplain and Wetland Protection District requires a 30’ set back from the high-water mark. Mr. Saluk indicated that the regulations note that there should be no alteration of the floodplain, as shown the AE flood zone is shown at 262’ and none of this work is within this area, so it meets the requirements in his opinion. Ms. Ryder noted that she has had a discussion with the building inspector who confirmed that a special permit would be required from ZBA to allow structures and walls within the 30’ FWPD setback area. So, it is ultimately the ZBA decision, the Commission needs to evaluate the impact to the wetland. The fill and wall design were discussed at length. The walkways will be gravel and the patio will be pavers. The decks will be made of composite materials and supported with helical pier type supports. The final design of the deck hasn’t been done yet. Mr. Clancy discussed the note on the plan which indicates the removal of invasive plants and retaining the trees. It was agreed that the tree locations would be shown on the plan, so it is clear what is to remain and what can be removed, and any additional planting required. Ms. Paquin noted
that at the site visit a second access to the lake was discouraged, so she wanted to confirm there would NOT be another access. This was confirmed. (David Williams joined the meeting at this point)

Mr. Dunbar discussed the larger lower deck and wondered how it would be supported and why it needs to be so big. Mr. Demers noted that the wall should not extend into the 20’ buffer zone since the Commission has this policy which has been upheld all the time. Mr. Dowd noted that the wall is a necessity to keep the land from slumping and for safety. The deck allows for the yard to be functional. After a long discussion about the size of the deck and the wall location it was agreed that the wall could be located so that the face of the wall (towards the lake) would be 20’ from the highwater mark at elevation 262’. The upper deck can remain as designed the lower deck can NOT extend the 16’ as shown, a new design that is 16’ wide and only 12’ deep would be acceptable. The walkway would then be 5’ wide, the engineer will confirm that this meets accessibility codes for the building dept. This walkway area between the wall and the house foundation would be raised a little bit to flatten it out. Mr. Saluk indicated there would be some excess soil then they installed the wall and grading along the sides of the house. Mr. Dunbar asked about the steep grades next to driveway. Mr. Saluk said with the addition of the retaining walls these will be graded so they can be accessed.

The Commission with the consent of the applicant agreed to continue the hearing to the November 5th meeting to allow for a revised plan noting the changes discussed which include: Show tree line and trees to be saved along shoreline, revise size and location of lower deck, revise location of retaining wall so it is outside the 20’ no disturb zone, show areas that will be loamed and seeded, if possible include location of supports for the decks. Ms. Ryder noted that she could also draft conditions for the next meeting for review as well. The hearing was continued to Nov. 5th.

Violations/Project updates:

- **541 Pleasant St.** - Ms. Ryder noted that she noticed trees had been removed at 541 Pleasant St. which were close to wetlands, she met with the homeowner Alexandre Sampaio, who was unaware of the wetland restrictions on the lot. Mr. Sampaio was present at the meeting and apologized that he cut down the trees in the buffer zone and has stopped all this work. He explained that he acquired the house several months ago and was just trying to clear around the house to open it up. The lot is 7 acres and he had originally intended to build a second house for his daughter, until he learned last week about the wetland restrictions on this lot. He noted he has a mouse and snake problem in his home and was trying to clear more area around the house to provide less access. Mr. Sampaio also requested permission to remove several large trees that are closer to the house as shown on the photos Ms. Ryder provided on the screen. After some discussion of this violation, the Commission agreed that Mr. Sampaio could finish cleaning up the trees that have been cut already, and that the Commission would inspect the area next spring to see what plants return and whether additional planting will be needed to revegetate the area. It is likely that many of the stumps will re-sprout. In the meantime, Mr. Sampaio would like to hire a wetland consultant and come up with a plan to do some additional clearing around the house within the 100’ Buffer Zone and outside the 20’ Buffer Zone. Ms. Ryder noted that the as-built plan was done in 2005 so a new wetland delineation would be
needed. The Commission will revisit this in the spring of 2021 and await a filing from Mr. Sampaio as well if he wishes to do more.

- 178 Simpson Rd. Ms. Ryder noted that she checked the site earlier in the week and they had not seeded the area yet. The Commission asked her to follow up to ensure it gets stabilized soon as the growing season is almost over. They also noted that the stumps must be removed. Ms. Ryder will follow up.

Certificate of Compliance:

- 212-1156 85 Dufresne Dr. – Full Certificate of Compliance - Ms. Ryder reported that she did a site inspection and has confirmed that the fence that was needed on the house-side of the wall has been installed. She showed the Commission pictures of this fence and the plantings. This was the last item to be met to be in full compliance with the Order of Conditions, therefore she recommended a full certificate of Compliance be issued. On a motion by Ms. Paquin second by chair, the Commission voted 6-0 to issue a full certificate of compliance for this project. The roll call vote was as follows with all yea’s: Edward Clancy-chairman, Dennis Demers; William Dunbar, Karin Paquin, Allan White and David Williams

- 212-1174 90 Slocomb Ln. - Ms. Ryder noted that she forgot to check this site, so this was continued to the next meeting.

Discussion/Correspondence:

- Trails Committee Update - Ms. Paquin explained that she has been working with a wonderful crew of volunteers over the past year and they have accomplished much work. She showed pictures from some of the workdays to install kiosks constructed by volunteers, repair trails and trail stairs, as well as hauling out excess lumber. The volunteers are also monitoring all the trails and reporting when work is needed. They are meeting once a month at a distance and with masks during this COVID pandemic. The volunteer crew is very talented, and Joe Crowder has routed out on the kiosk the BLT logo which is very impressive. Alex Kate has GDPS’ several trails and others have helped with chainsaw work. The Commission thanked Ms. Paquin for leading the charge, and Mr. Dunbar for helping as well. It was noted that at one of the hearing on the BLT someone had asked who would maintain the trails. Now that the Trails Committee has been established, this is now covered. 17 miles of the BLT are open in addition to the other trails on the conservation land so there is plenty of work to keep everyone busy.

- Mass DCR- Forest Management Proposal on the Goodale-Chipman Lots - Ms. Ryder noted that the DCR forester has been in touch to explain that the red-pine plantations on the property in the Desert Natural Area and the parcel in Hudson have succumb to the “red pine scale” which has killed all these trees, they will be doing a tree salvage harvest this winter, and will be providing more detail in the next few months.

- Goodale Estates Subdivision off Goodale St. – wetland violation - Ms. Ryder noted that she has sent an e-mail to the project contractor for the Goodale Estates subdivision as muddy water left the site and entered the stream across from Vega Rd. off Goodale St. She has required them to put in more erosion control measures and will meet them tomorrow at noon. The Commission
noted that if the contractor is cooperative and fixes the problem the issue will be resolved. If not, then a cease and desist order should be issued and the Commission will assert jurisdiction and require the filing of a Notice of Intent.

Next Conservation Commission meetings — November 5th, 2020 and November 19, 2020

Adjournment - there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned. On a motion to adjourn by Allan White second by Chairman Clancy, on a roll call vote of 6-0 in favor of the motion, the roll call of all yea votes was as follow: Chairman Clancy, Dennis Demers, William Dunbar, Karin Paquin, Allan White, and David Williams.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer