

Weston Conservation Commission (WCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

January 5, 2021

Approved: January 19, 2021

Members Participating      Joseph Berman (Chair), Cynthia Chapra, Josh Feinblum, Ellen Freeman Roth, Rebecca Loveys, Rees Tulloss

Members Absent:             Alison Barlow

Conservation Staff:         Michele Grzenda

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this Conservation Commission meeting was conducted via remote participation using Zoom.com. The Town provided access to such meeting via a link to call in. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public could adequately access the proceedings.

7:00 p.m.             Staff Transition

Joe Berman, Chair, announced that Michele Grzenda, Conservation Administrator, has resigned and has accepted the job of Conservation Director for the Town of Lincoln. Mr. Berman, members of the Commission, and Laurie Bent, Select Board Chair, offered fond farewells and gratitude to Ms. Grzenda's 12 years in Weston. Mr. Gaumond reviewed the process for hiring and explained that the initial vetting of candidates will be completed by the Town Manager's office. The Commission can designate 1-2 members to assist with the interview process. Josh Feinblum expressed interest seeing the Commission being more involved with the supervisory structure of this position. Mr. Feinblum requested that the Town Manger change this position to a Conservation Director position. Josh Feinblum wants the town to reconsider who the conservation staff person reports to and assesses their performance. The Town Manger indicated that he is committed to having a thorough review of the land use department in the near future. Mr. Berman will discuss timelines and job posting benchmarks with the Town Manager over the next few days.

Approval 12/15/20 Con Com Minutes – Motion by Josh Feinblum to approve; seconded by Cynthia Chapra; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

Land Management Updates – The Agent discovered trail damage in Jericho Town Forest from an ATV – Conservation Dept. staff posted “No ATV” signs at trailheads in Wayland where the ATV appears to have entered. Debbie Howell, Conservation Assistant, will speak with Wayland police. The Agent will see if a volunteer can install a game camera if additional encroachments occur.

7:35 p.m.             Request for Determination of Applicability; 345 Highland Street; S. Golin (owner)

The Applicant filed this Request for Determination of Applicability for work associated with the installation of a 12'x14' shed within the 100-foot buffer zone to a wetland at 345 Highland Street. The shed will be constructed on footings; the work is at least 75-feet from the wetland edge.. No erosion controls are necessary but the commission asked that the agent add a limit of work line and include that to the permit. Motion by Ellen Freeman Roth to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability; seconded by Cynthia Chapra; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

7:45 p.m.            Signing of Documents

1. Request for Cert. of Compliance – 217 Summer Street (337-090) -Motion by Rees Tulloss to issue the Cert. of Compliance; seconded by Josh Feinblum; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
2. Request for Certificate of Compliance - Pine Brook Country Club pond dredging project (337-1160) - motion by Cynthia Chapra to issue; seconded by Rees Tulloss; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
3. Request for Certificate of Compliance – Old Library 337-1306; Motion by Rees Tulloss to issue; seconded by Cynthia Chapra; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.
4. Request for Extension: Hobbs Pond Aquatic Management (337-685); Motion by Cynthia Chapra; seconded by Josh Feinblum; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

8:03 p.m.            Cont. Notice of Intent: 0, 518, and 540 South Ave; Hanover R.S. Limited Partnership

The applicant has requested a continuance. Motion by Cynthia Chapra to continue the hearing to February 2, 2021, at 8pm; seconded by Ellen Freeman Roth; roll call vote: each member responded Aye.

8:05 p.m.            FY22 Budget Discussion – The Agent reviewed the proposed FY22 WCC Budget to Finance Dept.; The Agent requested an additional \$6,000 for upkeep of the new trails at Case Estates and additional 2 hours/week for the Conservation Assistant – Land Management. No additional salary money is needed since the Agent is proposing that two hours of the Conservation Assistant -Wetlands staff person can be paid out of the WPA fund.

Next Conservation Commission Meeting: Jan 19, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.