

Weston Conservation Commission (WCC) - Public Meeting Minutes

June 29, 2021

Approved: July 13th, 2021

Members Participating: Joseph Berman (Chair), Cynthia Chapra, Ellen Freeman Roth, Allison Barlow

Members Absent: Rebecca Loveys, Josh Feinblum, Rees Tullos

Conservation Staff: Jordan McCarron

Notes: Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, which includes an extension of Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting was held via an online meeting platform (Zoom). No in-person attendance of members of the public was available.

Joe Berman, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with an opportunity for public comment. Hearing none, the Commission commenced with the following hearings and meetings:

Notice of Intent: 5 Warren Place (DEP# 337-1411); Sayem Kahn.

The Applicant has filed this Notice of Intent for the construction of an addition to an existing single-family home. A portion of the work falls within the 100-foot Wetland Buffer Zone, 200-foot Riverfront Area and floodplain. A motion to continue the Notice of Intent hearing for 5 Warren Place, DEP File 337-1411, at the request of the applicant to the July 13<sup>th</sup> hearing at 8 pm, was made by Cynthia Chapra; seconded by Alison Barlow. Role call vote 4-0.

Request for Determination of Applicability: 506 North Avenue (RDA 2021-012); Litchfield Company

Robert Gemma, MetroWest Engineering, provided an overview of the project. 506 North Avenue is a 1.59-acre residential lot currently being improved with a new house, paved driveway, new sewage disposal system, new stormwater management system, and landscaped areas. A portion of the eastern side of the existing house and the shed, scheduled to be razed, are located within the Buffer Zone. The cesspool, also located in the buffer zone, will be abandoned in place. The proposed new dwelling will be outside both the buffer zone and Riverfront Area. The only improvements proposed within the Buffer Zone and Riverfront Area will be a subsurface stormwater infiltration system, located outside the 50' Buffer Zone. The new house will add 500' of impervious area to the lot, all outside the buffer zone.

Ellen Freeman Roth verified that with the issuance of a Negative Determination of Applicability, the Commission could still require erosion and sedimentation controls. Jordan McCarron confirmed this, and reiterated that the project would also receive review and a decision from the Planning Board, and their requirements for site control are consistent with the Commission's.

A motion to issue a Negative 3 Determination to the Litchfield Company, 506 North Avenue, for demolition of an existing house and shed, abandonment of a cesspool, and installation of subsurface stormwater infiltration system, within the 100' buffer to a wetland and the outer Riverfront Area, was made by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Cynthia Chapra. Roll call vote 4-0.

Cont. NOI: 518 South Ave; Hanover Weston (DEP File# 337-1383)

Jonathan Buckman, on behalf of the applicant, Hanover Weston, requested a continuance to September 28, 2021 at 8 p.m. A motion to continue the Notice of Intent hearing for 518 South Avenue, DEP File 337-XXX, at the request of the applicant to the September 28<sup>th</sup> hearing at 8 pm, was made by Ellen Freeman Roth; seconded by Alison Barlow. Roll call vote 4-0.

The following administrative matters were then addressed in order:

A motion to approve the minutes from 6-15-21 was made by Cynthia Chapra; seconded by Alison Barlow. Roll call vote 4-0.

A motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for the Merriam Street Culvert Project, DEP FILE 337-1361, was made by Cynthia Chapra; seconded by Alison Barlow. Roll call vote 4-0.

Mr. McCarron provided the following land management updates:

- Jim Anza, Anza Outdoor Solutions, was awarded the mowing and land maintenance contracts for Fiscal Year 2022.
- The Native Plant Trust, formerly New England Wildflower Society, has requested permission to conduct a vegetation survey at Doublet Hill Conservation Area for Violet Bush-Clover, *Lespedeza frutescens*, a state-ranked uncommon wildflower in Massachusetts. The goal of the research is to catalogue the extent of the population and ultimately develop better conservation strategies for the species. The results of this research will be shared with the state's Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program and the Conservation Commission

Mr. Berman discussed the need for a working group to develop a draft Wetlands Bylaw. This will be placed on the agenda for a more in-depth discussion for the July 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.