

Committee: \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation Commission \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ March 10, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00pm \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Town Hall \_\_\_\_\_

Members & Staff present: \_\_Nick Feitz, Rae Ann Baldwin, Laura Replier, Carl Shreder, Rachel Bancroft, Andrew Currie, Susan Flint & Steve Przyjemski

Members not present: \_\_\_\_\_

The meeting was called to order at: \_\_\_\_\_ 7:06pm \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion:**

Conservation Committee Minutes  
3/10/16

**48 Searle Street (GCC 2016-04; DEP#161-0818) NOI-(cont.)**

Susan and Gary Stead, homeowners

**Gary Stead:** After the original meeting, we still thought it was a good plan, but tried to push it into the woods to get it outside the 75', keep mature trees, and take out ~ 10 small white pines.

**Carl Shreder:** Does anyone have any questions? Right now, it meets the regulations.

**Rachel Bancroft:** Is the gravel in place?

**Susan Stead:** The stuff to the left will be removed, the stuff to the right will stay.

**Carl Shreder:** As far as the area that was cleared.

**Gary Stead:** Pull back the stone, add loam to the grass area, and let the brush go back to brush.

The gravel will be to start the path, and boat storage.

**Carl Shreder:** Abutter comments?

No comments.

**Steve Przyjemski:** My only comment/ is that it was originally a violation, they started the work before they had pulled a permit. I would recommend a granite stone bounds, so this won't happen again inadvertently.

**Susan Stead:** There was no intent, the wetlands weren't flagged, and we didn't realize this was an issue.

**Laura Replier:** How big is that area? 1"=20' ~ 1200 sq. ft.

**Steve Przyjemski:** The tree line would move to the stone bounds, no cut/ no disturb.

**Susan Stead:** We're trying really hard to be reasonable, we've been really good stewards.

**Carl Shreder:** All we're trying to do is to protect the wetlands area.

**Gary Stead:** We have a small yard in a 5 acre lot, maybe only 500 sq. ft., in 5000 sq. ft. lot.

**Steve Przyjemski:** The area I drew out was 8'x20'.

**Laura Replier:** Is it an isolated wetlands? Or connected?

**Susan Stead:** It's isolated.

**Laura Replier:** It's a very small area.

**Steve Przyjemski:** You're doubling the wetland buffer.

**Carl Shreder:** You shouldn't be cutting a lawn this close to a resource buffer.

**Rachel Bancroft:** How tall are those ledges?

**Gary Stead:** About 3' tall.

**Carl Shreder:** I think you should put them at 50' or don't put them at all.

**Steve Przyjemski:** We have an existing house, which had an existing lawn. We're trying to improve it at 8' wide.

**Andrew Currie:** Can you improve it with plantings?

**Susan Stead:** I have no problem adding more plantings that look nice, than put up stone bounds.

**Andrew Currie:** I think I'd augment it, the first few feet of the lawn, 10' strip, but not taking anything out of the native woodlands.

**Steve Przyjemski:** You don't want to disturb the woodland.

**Carl Shreder:** I'd put a bounds with the restoration area too. Lawns creep over time. They need to be installed 2' in the ground, 2' out of the ground.

**Steve Przyjemski:** You'd want at least 3 bounds.

**Carl Shreder:** Do you want to have the plans redrawn with the stone bounds? And the plantings? Or do you want to have it verbally agreed upon?

I like the simple version, 3 stone bounds.

**Susan Stead:** I like the simple version. The area behind the triangle is replanted.

**Gary Stead:** I can have Jim Scanlan drawn up the new plans.

**Carl Shreder:** We can approve this tonight and have Jim Scanlan draw this in and drop it off.

**Laura Replier:** Makes a motion to accept the NOI for 48 Searle Street to include the accepting the plan dated 3/2/16 rev. 3/10/16 with the following additions: 3 stone boundaries drawn in, mitigation with native plantings behind the bounds, no removal of existing vegetation behind the bounds. The applicant will deliver the redrawn plan 3 no cut/no disturb bounds as drawn on revised plan 3/10/16.

**Nick Feitz:** Seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

**Andrew Currie:** Indicate the additional area ~15'x15'.

**Nick Feitz:** Makes a motion to close 48 Searle Street

**Rachel Bancroft:** Seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

**24 Summer Street (GCC 2015-15; DEP#161-0813) NOI (cont.)**

Christopher Conway 24 Summer Street

**Christopher Conway:** I was under the impression that I was to be here to go over the revised plan, but I now know that it wasn't ready.

I understand the plant list from the botanist is not ready yet.

10' x 12' new room off the side of the house, outside the 50' buffer, inside the 75' no build. The driveway is off the list, it stays as the gravel driveway.

**Nick Feitz:** Makes a motion to continue 24 Summer Street (GCC 2015-15; DEP#161-0813) NOI to April 14, 2016 at 7:10pm.

**Rachel Bancroft:** Seconds the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

**13 Brook Meadow Lane (GCC 2015-05; DEP#161-0819) NOI New**

Vaclav Talacko, Engineer, Hancock Engineering  
Representing Doug MacDonald, owner

It's an odd lot. It has an existing house with the driveway connecting to the cul-de-sac and a retaining wall. There's a walkway to the front and a deck on the back, the wetland is located just beyond the wood road. 200' riverfront associated with the brook. - doesn't affect the work.

The wood deck we want to extend twice, once off the kick-out and once, the same size in the corner next to it, both are outside of the 75' buffer. All the work will be at grade, the patio. Client requested 3 lights along the driveway, very dark area. Proposing the existing deck inside the 75' to be screened in and covered. We have a deck and patio outside the 75' buffer. FEMA shows this house inside the flood plain, @ 84'. Two houses at 80' are outside the flood plain.

**Carl Shreder:** So you're saying if Plough Brook floods, this house won't flood.

**Vaclav Talacko:** All we are doing in the flood plain is putting in 4 posts, so basically the effects on the flood plain are zero.

**Carl Shreder:** If you take out the soil, you can't put it in the flood plain. Is the screened-in porch going to have a gutter system?

**Vaclav Talacko:** No.

Roof line will start below the windows and slope down 1:5, or whatever it is required.

**Laura Replier:** Is there going to be a door from the house to the patio?  
Can that be a covered deck? Instead of the screened in porch? That would get it outside of the 75' buffer.

**Vaclav Talacko:** That's a bedroom, and this is a living area, that's the real reason for putting it here.

**Carl Shreder:** Since there is already a deck there...

**Laura Replier:** I think we need infiltration on the new roof, we can't let it sheet flow off of there.

**Vaclav Talacko:** So you would like to see some way of capturing this water?

**Carl Shreder:** Yes.

**Vaclav Talacko:** I'll be putting it in inside the 75' buffer.

**Andrew Currie:** Your flow level is 85.73, the ground level is 82.

**Carl Shreder:** When was it built?

**Vaclav Talacko:** Between 1988-90.

**Carl Shreder:** Yes, it's disturbed already, yes, there's a degree of reduction of pervious area, but it's not pristine section. In my mind it's acceptable.

**Nick Feitz:** What about endangered species?

**Steve Przyjemski:** It's such a minor change, National heritage, lack of erosion, soil. National Heritage and DEP will sign off on it eventually.

**Rachel Bancroft:** What about the lights that are proposed?

**Vaclav Talacko:** Little cable lights that everybody has along their driveway.

**Rachel Bancroft:** How tall?

**Vaclav Talacko:** about 6' tall, regular driveway lights.

**Rae Baldwin:** Makes a motion to continue 13 Brook Meadow Lane (GCC 2015-05; DEP#161-0819) NOI to April 14, 2016 at 7:15pm.

**Laura Replier:** Seconds the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

**Rock Pond (GCC 2016-06; DEP#161-0820)**

Tom McGrane, Rock Pond Association

Dominic Meringolo, Solitude Lake Management, formerly Aquatic Control Technology, (Did work out at Pentucket Pond years ago.)

**Dominic Meringolo:** We went out and surveyed the pond last summer and found a substantial amount of Eurasian Water Milfoil, non-native, invasive species. We put together a management plan for Rock Pond Association, this is the first step in getting that management plan started to control these non-native plants.

Rock Pond is a 57 acres waterbody, primary in flow is from the Parker River, primary out flow into Pentucket pond and into the ocean.

Eurasian Milfoil was found in less than 1/2 the pond last summer, huge spread along the shore line, and increased in density since it was originally found a couple of years ago.

Crowds out native species, suffocate fish and wildlife, affects recreation and water quality, therefore it's really important to manage these plants as well as possible.

Plan is normal practice, managing the non-native species will help prevent eutrophication of the pond.

**Carl Shreder:** What are your success stories for Milfoil in other ponds? Assuming there's a pond management system.

Long Sought for Pond in Westford, in 2004 they had dense Eurasian Milfoil, used a whole pond herbicide, treatment lasted for about 10 years. We started seeing regrowth about 2 years ago.

Typically 3-4 years for systemic herbicide treatments.

We're looking at a partial lake treatment, with the contact herbicide, Diquat.

Mechanically harvesting is really not a good idea, Milfoil spreads by fragmentation. Even the best harvesters cannot collect all those fragments.

The densest part is over near the boat ramp.

**Tom McGrane:** What our association has planned, we're hoping to put a group of volunteers together to check and mark the regrowth of milfoil. Hoping to get some volunteers to ask boat owners bringing boats into the pond to check their boats and trailers, or at the very least let them know.

**Nick Feitz:** Would it make sense to have an area to wash the boats and trailers off at the ramp?

**Tom McGrane:** That would have to come from the state. You would have to catch everything you wash off. The state regulate it, but they don't do anything.

**Carl Shreder:** The state doesn't have any money to manage Great Ponds.

**Steve Przyjemski:** What do you think the National Heritage is going to do?

**Dominic Meringolo:** The state isn't concerned about bridle shiners.

**Laura Replier:** Have you considered a drawn down? Because it's all around the edges.

**Steve Przyjemski:** We don't have a dam.

**Steve Przyjemski:** How about vacuuming?

**Dominic Meringolo:** It's not practical for large areas. You can literally spend \$10-20K/acre doing dash work, and while they try to get the plants out by their root systems, you always end up leaving a significant amount of reproductive plants.

**Nick Feitz:** Have you ever used biologicals like the milfoil weevil?

**Dominic Meringolo:** It was hot topic 15 years ago, but it doesn't work that well.

**Tom McGrane:** This is a 5 year old cost projection:

Using an herbicide: its \$550-750 /acre

Biological \$3000/acre

Mechanical control (like a DASH) \$10,000/acre

Sonar \$2000/gallon

Pellets are even more.

**Steve Przyjemski:** Request for CPC put in. Also put in request to have the \$ reallocated for both ponds. We need to get ahead of Pentucket. Maybe we can look forward to be able to treat and keep the costs down. There is money.

**Steve Przyjemski:** Is it smaller than Pentucket?

**Dominic Meringolo:** Yes it's a little smaller.

**Dominic Meringolo:** We're not intending to wipe out all the plants in the pond, just targeting non-native plant treatment. We do pre and post surveys, it's not a stand-alone treatment. Asking for approval for Diquot is a 3 year herbicide.

**Carl Shreder:** Can you get me the SDS (Safety Data Sheet)?

**Dominic Meringolo:** Want to treat when the Bio-Mass is still low, roughly June. We would close the whole pond for recreation the day we do the treatments. Drinking and Domestic water uses are a 3 day restriction.

**Tom McGrane:** The actual treatment was \$6000 + the permitting and the studies. Total ~ \$11,000.

**Carl Shreder:** Have you contacted National Heritage about this? Do we know how long this will take us?

**Dominic Meringolo:** We submitted the NOI for review the same day we submitted to the Commission.

**Dominic Meringolo:** Typically DEP has no comments. They look for more procedural things. The herbicides are regulated by the EPA, the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture and the DEP. It has been issued a label that allows its use in lakes and ponds.

We also have to get a permit yearly through the DEP. Staff is licensed with the Department of Agriculture as well, the applicators.

Environmental impact in accordance with the GEIR.

**Carl Shreder:** Do we have funding in our accounts?

**Tom McGrane:** Barring the situation, we have adequate funding as it is to take on these costs.

**Steve Przyjemski:** CPC can go forward with CPC funds.



**Carl Shreder:** We can't close this and issue an Order until we hear back from National Heritage. They can proceed with planning.

**Laura Replier:** Did CPC accept your project?

**Tom McGrane:** No additional \$, just moving round \$ to fund both Rock and Pentucket pond.

**Graham Noel:** A lot of people in this room have gone out and educated people.

**Carl Shreder:** You're never going to totally get rid of this stuff, you're just going to get it to a point and maintain it.

**Tom McGrane:** 51 households that abut the pond. Over 75% involved in Rock Pond association ~ 35-36 paid members of the abutters.

**Eric Harper:** 37 Lakeridge Drive: Is it necessary to have Dominic come every time?

**Carl Shreder:** You can have Tom, or someone else be the representative.

**Steve Przyjemski:** You can call in to have the hearing continued if we don't have the DEP# or comments back.

**Nick Feitz:** Makes a motion to continue to April 14, 2016 at 7:30pm

**Rachel Bancroft:** Seconds the motion.

Motion carries unanimously.

Discussion for new CPC member.

**Rae Baldwin:** Makes a motion to have Rachel as our CPC representative.

**Nick Feitz:** Seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

John Lopez requested being a representative for the Open Space Committee.

**Nick Feitz:** Makes a motion to select John Lopez to the Open space committee.

**Andrew Currie:** Seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

Workshop in the Woods contract signed.

OoC extension request for 38 Brook Street.

CoC for 7 West Street.

CoC for 18 Lisa Lane.

**Rae Baldwin:** Makes a motion to pay the bills as read by Steve.

**Rachel Bancroft:** Seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

**Nick Feitz:** makes a motion to approve the minutes from 1/21/16.

**Andrew Currie:** Seconds the motion.

**Rae Baldwin:** Makes a motion to close the hearing.

**Nick Feitz:** Seconds the motion.

Motion passes unanimously.

Meeting closed at 9:20pm.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits used at Meeting:

Documents and Other Exhibits used at meeting will be available for review at: \_\_\_the Conservation Office\_\_\_\_\_

*(Office)*

Meeting was adjourned at: \_\_\_\_\_ 9:20pm\_\_\_\_\_

Next meeting:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ April 14, 2016 \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_ 7:00pm \_\_\_\_\_

Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Second Floor Meeting Room \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Signature)*

Minutes approved by Committee on: \_\_ April 14, 2016\_\_

*(Date)*

