

**CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes
March 3, 2016 (Thursday)
Marlborough City Hall – 3rd Floor, Memorial Hall
7:00 PM**

Present: Edward Clancy – Chairman, Lawrence Roy, Dennis Demers, and David Williams. Also present was Priscilla Ryder - Conservation Officer.

Absent: Allan White, John Skarin and Karin Paquin

Minutes: The minutes of February 18, 2016 were unanimously approved as written.

Wetland Violation:

215 Maple St. Fire Station – Chris White, DPW Forestry and Parks

Chairman Clancy asked Mr. White to explain why they were doing so much work near the brook behind the fire station without a permit from the Commission. Mr. White explained that as part of a long outstanding requirement with DCR he and Ms. Ryder had come up with a maintenance plan for the control of the Japanese knotweed and other invasive plants that are growing behind the fire station on Maple St. After receiving and commenting on a draft plan that was sent to the DCR for approval, Mr. White assumed the project was simply a maintenance project and proceeded with the work given the mild weather, not knowing further review was necessary. He apologized for the oversight. He then explained what the plan entails and what they have already done and plan to do. The plan included removal of the invasive Japanese knotweed on both sides of the brook, installation of erosion controls and removal of roots. In doing this work, they unearthed several drainage pipes that were either blocked or causing erosion and rippapped the ends of these entire pipes- four total. Near the parking lot to the fire station there were bittersweet vines which were choking some of the trees. The dead and dying trees were removed. Mr. Clancy reminded Mr. White that all work within 100 feet of the wetlands needs to get permission from the Commission, especially when large equipment like backhoes and digging is required. Now that the Commission understands the extent of the work and that the work is almost completed, the Commission approved the project as a maintenance project and asked that the soil be stabilized as soon as possible to prevent any siltation to the brook. Mr. Clancy required that Mr. White notify the Conservation Officer in the future before doing any work, maintenance or otherwise beside any brook or wetland to confirm if permits are required. Mr. White agreed that going forward he would do that.

Public Hearings:

Notice of Intent – (Continuation)

West Hill Rd. reconstruction – Marlborough Dept. of Public Works

At the applicants' request, this item was continued to the March 24, 2016 meeting to allow more time to provide information.

Notice of Intent (Continuation)

Corner of Lizotte Dr. and Williams St. – Lake Williams Marsh LLC (212-1166)

Ms. Ryder noted that Mr. Lavoie from Guerriere and Halnon had provided modified plans to the Commission and City Engineer. The city engineer is satisfied with the plans and drainage changes that were made. The Commission was satisfied as well. The hearing was closed and the Commission reviewed a set of draft Order of Conditions. The Commission voted unanimously 4-0 to approve the Order of Conditions as written.

Certificates of Compliance

- DEP 212-680 73 Dean Rd. (Lot 2) – letter from lawyer attached. Ms. Ryder noted that the new owner will be filing for a Request for Determination of Applicability to do some landscaping improvements near the wetland and the wetland 20' buffer boundary markers are still to be installed. The Commission stated that they would not issue the Certificate of Compliance until the markers were in place.

Discussion/Correspondence/Other Business:

- Project Clean Sweep – April 30th (Saturday)
- Transmission line proposed through Hudson and Sudbury next to The Desert Natural Area Conservation land - Ms. Ryder noted that she had received several e-mails regarding the open house scheduled for March 15th at 5 -7 PM in Hudson Town hall, and March 16th at 5-7 at Sudbury Town Hall for the public to review the electric transmission line that is proposed along the railroad bed. The Commission looked at the plans provided and agreed with some of the e-mails that the line should be underground rather than above ground, as this would limit the amount of tree clearing required. The protection of trees along this corridor will be important as it runs right by the Desert and Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge (ARNWR) and Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT's Memorial Forest). The Commission will submit a letter stating same after several members attend the open house to gather any additional information needed.
- Desert Natural Area/Memorial Forest - Ms. Ryder shared the notice she received regarding Sudbury Valley Trustees (SVT) filing an Notice of Intent (NOI) to the Sudbury Conservation Commission (SCC) to do trail repairs as required by an enforcement order from the SCC. The Commission discussed this and determined that a letter should be sent to the SCC as an abutter to offer support and the Commission's acknowledgement

that the proposed repairs to wetland areas that have been degraded by public access use by humans, dogs and horses seems appropriate, and to offer the Commission's continued help in working together to solve these common problems. Ms. Ryder will draft a letter for the Chairman's signature.


Project Updates: Wetland violations

Ms. Ryder noted she has been out to the Ames St. apartment project (Brookview Village); 93 Framingham Rd. subdivision; Overlook at Lake Williams; and 92 Crowley Dr. and Maple St. fire station during the last rain events. Some minor problems were identified, but corrected immediately, so no violation notices were issued.

Meetings – Next Conservation meetings – March 24th (note: this is the 4th Thursday of the month) and April 7th, 2016 (Thursdays)

Adjournment - There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,


Priscilla Ryder
Conservation Officer