

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 7:00 PM
WebEx Virtual Conference

Commissioners Present: Marcus Quigley (Chair), Roberta Schnoor (Vice Chair), Werner Lohe, Pallavi Kalia Mande

Commissioners Absent: Benjamin Wish, Pamela Harvey

Staff Present: Tom Brady (Conservation Administrator), Katie Weatherseed (Conservation Assistant)

Guests: John Rockwood, Shengqi Li, Hugh Mattison

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

The Commission reviewed the set of minutes from March 24th, 2020.

P. K. Mande made a motion to accepted the minutes from March 24th, 2020 as drafted. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR 100 COTTAGE STREET

T. Brady discussed the supplemental information that had been sent to the Commission for their review. He discussed the additional work that is proposed, and that the applicant is amenable to a Conservation Restriction for the area discussed at the previous public hearing. T. Brady stated that he believes the applicant adequately addressed the Commission's comments and concerns. R. Schnoor and W. Lohe agreed that they were pleased with the supplemental information provided by the applicant. J. Rockwood described the additional proposed work, including the installation of a post and rail fence between the proposed Conservation Restriction area and the proposed development, invasive species removal, the staking of the southern property line, additional plantings, the replacement of the existing stockade fence and post and rail fence along the southern property boundary, additional planting for stream bank stabilization, the disposal of historic yard waste, and the installation of construction fencing to demarcate the limit of work. He added that he drafted a separate narrative so that it may be easily referenced in the order of conditions. T. Brady suggested that the Laurel Road Conservation Restriction would be a good reference point for this Conservation Restriction, as there are multiple similarities. J. Rockwood also mentioned that a sewer line runs through the property, however this should not have any implications for the Conservation Restriction.

P. K. Mande made motion to close the hearing. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.

CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR 280 WARREN STREET

T. Brady stated that his office has received the DEP number for this project, and asked if the Commission had any questions. The Commission had no questions.

R. Schnoor made a motion to close the hearing. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

The Commission reviewed the draft conditions for 100 Cottage Street. R. Schnoor asked K. Weatherseed whether it was drafted prior to the submittal of the supplemental documents. K. Weatherseed confirmed that they had been drafted prior to receipt of the additional documents. R. Schnoor proposed several modifications.

P. K. Mande made a motion to accept the Order of Conditions with modifications. W. Lohe seconded. All in favor.

The Commission reviewed the draft conditions for 280 Warren Street.

R. Schnoor made a motion to accept the Order of Conditions. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady stated that the Muddy River project was awarded to Charter Environmental. M. Quigley inquired if delays are anticipated. T. Brady stated that he expects delays with the review processes as a result of the closures associated with Covid-19.

T. Brady mentioned that he received a Certificate of Compliance request for a property on Woodland Road. He recommended a site visit if the Commission is comfortable doing so. He added that there is plenty of space for the Commission to maintain adequate social distance. The Commission determined that they would meet next Wednesday, May 6th at 10 AM.

T. Brady mentioned that R. Schnoor is assisting the Town in the review of a Conservation Restriction.

T. Brady continued that significant work has taken place at the Kargman property. New stormwater retention facilities have been installed – T. Brady confirmed that he was present during installation and has pictures of the process.

T. Brady discussed the windstorm from the previous week, which did a significant amount of damage to Brookline's trees. He also mentioned that nature sanctuaries are getting more use as a result of Covid-19, which has led to some issues regarding social distancing. Signage has been erected at all parks/playgrounds relaying information about social distancing. Park rangers, in collaboration with the police, are monitoring parks and nature sanctuaries more closely, and will promote social distancing measures. T. Brady also noted the increase in wildlife presence, and

mentioned that Alex Cassie, Park Ranger, will set up game cameras to try and capture wildlife activity.

T. Brady mentioned the Park School, which is contemplating the installation of an artificial turf. T. Brady met on site with the team and reviewed a detailed set of plans, and concurred that the project is not jurisdictional under the Wetlands Protection Act or the Brookline Wetlands Bylaw, and they will not be impacting any of the property that is protected by a Conservation Restriction.

M. Quigley mentioned a new device he discovered – a low cost soil moisture probe which can document saturation levels automatically. He mentioned the possible uses it could have in wetland delineation and monitoring of soil conditions.

T. Brady stated that he had received inquiries regarding the restrictions around public access to Sargent Pond. He added that this has been passed to Town Counsel for their review.

ADJOURN

P. K. Mande made a motion to adjourn. R. Schnoor seconded. All in favor.

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed