

Wakefield Conservation Commission – Minutes – October 14, 2021

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Attendance: Chairman Jim Luciani, Vice Chairman Bob Romano; Teresa Belmonte; Ken Alepidis, Peter Miller; Silvana Bouhlal; Frank Calandra
Rebecca Davis, Judy Green

10/6/21 minutes – Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the October 6, 2021 minutes.

Ms. Bouhlal made a second to the motion. After polling the Commissioners individually, the motion passed unanimously.

DEP#313-608 – 200-400 Quannapowitt Parkway – Notice of Intent – this matter was continued to 10/28/21 at the applicant's request.

DEP#313-607 – Lake Street – Notice of Intent - this matter was continued to 10/28/21 at the applicant's request.

DEP#313-609 - 410 Salem Street (Heron Pond Condos) – Heron Pond Condo Trust – continued public hearing: Notice of Intent for the construction of a retaining wall and drainage structures within the buffer to bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) – Greg Hochmuth of Williams & Sparages was present for the applicant. Mr. Hochmuth stated that changes have been made pursuant to the recent site visit. The silt sock will be staked into the ground. Also, stone will be placed instead of grass in the area between the lawn and wall.

Mr. Romano asked if filter fabric would be placed beneath the stone.

Mr. Hochmuth stated it would not. He noted that they anticipate undertaking the work this fall. Erosion control mats will be placed over the loam to ensure viability of the grass. The downspouts will now discharge along the new wall rather than going through the wall.

Mr. Romano asked that the applicant add to the plan the mulch sock and detail of the area to be disturbed.

Mr. Alepidis made a motion to close the public hearing.

Ms. Belmonte made a second to the motion. After polling the Commissioners individually, the motion passed. Mr. Luciani was not present for the vote.

Mr. Hochmuth stated that the erosion mat over loam would be used if the work is undertaken between October and April. He also suggested that if the erosion mat is used that the Commission require photo documentation to confirm it is in place over the winter months.

Mr. Calandra made a motion to issue a standard Order of Conditions with one special condition requiring the use of an erosion mat if work is performed between October and April.

Ms. Belmonte made a second to the motion. After polling the Commissioners individually, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Luciani joined the meeting.

71 Kendrick Road – tree removal request – awaiting arborist letter. This matter was continued to 10/28/21.

49 Essex Street – tree removal request – homeowner Mary Young was present. A letter from Iron Tree was provided. It was noted that the oak tree adjacent to the garage was rotted and in danger of coming down. A smaller hickory tree also needs to be removed in order to access the larger tree.

Ms. Young provided site photos for review. She noted that she has planted 3 new trees in her front and side yard.

The Commission had no issue with this request. A letter approving the removal will be issued. No additional plantings will be required.

DEP#313-XXX – Camp Curtis Guild – MA Army National Guard – public hearing: Notice of Intent for a 5-year invasive species management plan including the application of herbicides in BVW and buffer over approximately 7 acres – Emily Alderton of BSC Group and Erin Hilley of Army National Guard Natural Resources were present for the applicant.

Ms. Alderton stated that the proposed plan will target the spread of invasive species. The majority of the targeted area will be within Natural Heritage Endangered Species areas. Smaller areas of invasives would be targeted in order to prevent large outbreaks. In larger areas, herbicides would be used selectively. She noted that a 5-year Order of Conditions would allow time to both selectively target areas then repeat treatment as success is achieved. This work would not be undertaken during amphibian breeding season.

Mr. Romano asked what would be used to treat Norway Maple and Tree of Heaven.

Ms. Atherton stated that the trees would be girdled then allowed to die off naturally. They would then be left as snags.

Ms. Hilley noted that they would not girdle trees near buildings. These trees would be cut down. Herbicide would then be painted on the stump.

Mr. Luciani asked the impact on wildlife.

Ms. Hilley stated that the herbicide to be used works to prevent cell division in plants. It would not be harmful to wildlife. It was noted that this plan had been approved by Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program. Small amounts of herbicide would be used in sensitive areas.

Mr. Luciani asked if there was concern regarding canopy loss resulting from this tree removal.

Ms. Hilley did not think this was an issue as they do not propose to remove dense stands of trees.

Mr. Miller asked if trees proposed for removal had been marked.

Ms. Hilley stated they were not. She noted that this work would be undertaken slowly over the 5 years. The work would also be dependent upon ongoing funding.

Mr. Luciani asked why this work was now being undertaken.

Ms. Hilley stated that invasive removal outside jurisdictional areas is regularly undertaken.

Mr. Romano asked if any heavy equipment would be used.

Ms. Atherton stated there would not be.

Mr. Calandra asked the volume of herbicide to be used as well as the runoff plan.

Ms. Atherton stated that a volume has not yet been put together. She added that she does not know what areas would be undertaken at what time but that it would be a low volume.

Mr. Luciani asked that monitoring reports be submitted to the Commission.

Ms. Hilley stated that these could be submitted yearly. She anticipates this plan would extend beyond 5 years.

Ms. Davis noted that the requirements for a Limited Ecological Restoration Project are clearly laid out in the regulations. It also outlines general conditions.

Ms. Hilley stated conditions for this project would include soil stabilization and annual progress reports.

Mr. Luciani asked what would happen with removed vegetation.

Ms. Hilley stated it would be left in place to decompose.

Julie Giganti – associate member applicant - asked the impact on wildlife related to any potential food or habitat loss.

Ms. Atherton stated that this loss would not be significant. The main areas of removal would be roadside.

Ms. Giganti asked when native plantings would be added.

Ms. Hilley stated that they would be planted immediately after removal to prevent invasives from moving into the void areas.

The Commission would like to perform a collaborative site visit prior to the next hearing on this matter with the Reading, North Reading and Lynnfield Conservation Commissions.

Ms. Hilley will provide available dates for the site visit.

Ms. Davis will contact the Lynnfield and Reading commissions regarding guidance on reviewing this type of project.

This matter was continued to 10/28/21.

DEP#313-338 – 39 Coolidge Park – request for partial Certificate of Compliance – this matter was continued to 10/28/21.

24 Winnisimmette Avenue – tree removal request – Pictures of tree to be removed were provided to the Commission for review. The tree is located behind a fence, adjacent to a stream.

Homeowner Michael Bordini stated that he would like to remove the tree as it is overhanging the fence and shading the corner lawn area.

Mr. Luciani noted that it is providing shade to the adjacent stream.

Mr. Miller suggested pruning the overhanging branch.

Mr. Bordini stated that he would like to plant a row of evergreens on either side of the fence in order to muffle the sound from Route 128.

Ms. Belmonte agreed with pruning the overhanging branch, not removal of the tree.

Mr. Miller noted that the fence had been placed close to the stream, precluding placement of more plantings.

Ms. Belmonte noted that the Commission should have reviewed placement of the fence.

Mr. Romano also agreed with pruning over removal.

Ms. Davis noted that there has not been a site visit.

Ms. Belmonte requested that one of the Agent's conduct a site visit and report back at the next meeting.

Ms. Davis will provide planting suggestions for the lawn area.

This matter was continued to 10/28/21.

258 Lowell Street – tree removal request – site photos were forwarded to the Commission for review. A site visit by the Agent will be scheduled.

Mr. Alepidis made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Calandra made a second to the motion. After polling the Commissioners, the motion passed unanimously.