

Wakefield Conservation Commission – Minutes – January 28, 2021

Wakefield Conservation Commission (Commission) – Minutes – January 25, 2021

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

1/14/21 minutes – Ms. Belmonte made a motion to approve the January 14, 2021 minutes.

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

DEP#313-462 – 84 New Salem Street – Commonwealth Tank – Request to extend Order of Conditions – Ms. Vreeland spoke with Town Engineer Bill Renault to review changes to the plan. Mr. Renault confirmed that the changes were minor and he had approved.

Town Forest – Mr. Luciani would like the Commission to review the current open space plan and address the established goals. Updating the plan would allow the Town to use it as a guide when making open space decisions.

Mr. Miller asked if the Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) should be more generic as a starting point.

Mr. Luciani noted that the OSRP reflects what the townspeople asked for via surveys and public meetings. He would also like the Commission to take the initiative with certification of vernal pools.

Ms. Davis stated that former Town Planner Paul Reavis had previously updated the OSRP in order to apply for a grant. She suggested starting over rather than updating the current plan. The Town Forest idea has been forwarded to Rob Darnell of the Environmental Sustainability Committee so that the Envision Wakefield Initiative criteria could be applied. It was noted that there are over 100 acres of open space between the Town Forest and proposed Emerald Necklace lots.

Ms. Belmonte felt that the Commission could review the OSRP while the Town Forest proposal is run through the Town's visions and values framework.

Ms. Davis stated that she would speak with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council re: process to update the OSRP.

Mr. Miller recommended including this discussion on subsequent meeting agendas.

Ms. Belmonte asked if moving forward the Commission could utilize a designated person to sign documents on behalf of the Commission.

Ms. Vreeland stated that she would research this option and report back.

Ms. Davis will look into the use of electronic signatures.

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Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Alepidis made a second to the motion. After polling the members individually, the motion passed unanimously.