

Wakefield Conservation Commission – Minutes – February 25, 2021

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

1/28/21 minutes – Ms. Bouhlal made a motion to approve the January 28, 2021 minutes.

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

DEP#313-598 – 41 Church Street – Veteran’s Field – Town of Wakefield – Public Hearing: Notice of Intent for the reconstruction of existing tennis courts, repaving of stone dust path and replacement of stormwater outfall with infiltration basin within buffer to inland bank. Town Engineer Bill Renault, Town Engineers Nathan Chin and Erik Sherman were present.

The proposal calls for the reconstruction of the existing tennis courts with the addition of an area for a pickleball court. The expanded court area will be 3,700 square feet. Additionally, the adjacent gravel path which has eroded will be removed and replaced with a paved pathway. The path will be regraded towards a proposed swale. Drainage would then be discharged into a newly created bioretention area. Construction is slated to commence in the spring/summer of 2021. It is estimated that courts would be available for use sometime around September 2021.

Ms. Belmonte asked how much the impervious area would increase.

Mr. Chin stated that it would be 1/3 larger than present.

Carol Mann – Albion Street – asked how many feet there would be behind the pickleball court.

Mr. Renault stated there would be 15’ to 20’. He noted that they also planned to cut and excavate invasive plants then loam and seed. The area will be monitored after one year to assess any invasive re-growth.

Ms. Davis would like to see native plantings rather than loam and seed. This would help the plan remain consistent with other planting standards around the lake.

Mr. Renault stated that he is open to this suggestion.

Mr. Romano asked if a berm would be placed along the paved path.

Mr. Renault stated that it would be pitched towards the hill. Drainage would be directed toward the bioretention basin.

Mr. Miller asked if there would be a significant decrease of fertilizer entering the lake.

Mr. Renault stated that the plan is to pick up fertilizer from the pavement above.

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Mr. Calandra asked if there would be winter maintenance of the path, i.e. sanding/salting.

Mr. Renault stated that it would be plowed only.

Mr. Romano asked if the tennis courts would be dug up and whether the current drainage pipe would be removed.

Mr. Renault stated that the courts would be fully reconstructed. Additionally, new lighting and a windscreen shielding the pickleball court will be added. They plan to remove the headwall and plug the pipe.

Mr. Calandra agreed that plugging the pipe rather than removing it would cause the least amount of disturbance. He asked if there would be standing water in the bioretention basin.

Mr. Renault stated that there would not be. It will be wet for approximately 1 ½ days prior to draining down.

Ms. Belmonte asked why the pathway needed to be paved.

Mr. Renault stated that the reconstruction would decrease erosion and increase mobility options.

Mr. Luciani asked if there was any concern regarding the percentage of phosphorus removal.

Mr. Renault stated that the bioretention basins would remove 90% of total suspended solids. Additionally, the swales would be inspected one-time per year. Any dead vegetation would be removed.

Ms. Vreeland suggested a special condition stating that the landscaping plan would be submitted prior to commencement of work. She and Ms. Davis will work with Mr. Renault regarding plant selection for the basins.

Mr. Renault stated that he would submit an operation & maintenance plan for the basins.

Ms. Belmonte made a motion to close the public hearing.

Mr. Miller made a second to the motion.

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn. After polling the Commissioners individually, the motion passed unanimously.

DEP#313-599 – 53 Court Street – Town of Wakefield – Public Hearing: Notice of Intent for the installation of a new inlet control structure over existing drain pipe altering 15 linear feet of Inland Bank and 100 square feet of Land Under Waterbodies – Town Engineer Bill Renault was present. The proposal calls for the installation of a new 4'x4' inlet box with trash rack and replacement of 30' of pipe in the backyard of 53 Court Street. This is an old drainage ditch

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collecting run-off from Sweetser Street. A resident had expressed concern that children could access the current pipe. The pipe will also run beneath a driveway on Jackson Lane.

Stanley Hornsby – 55 Court Street – stated that there is also a pipe on his property entering from Brewster Street. He regularly cleans trash, debris and yard refuse from the pipe in order to keep the water flowing. If it is not cleared, the area floods. It was also noted that yearly pool draining in the neighborhood drains into this area. He asked why this pipe could not be extended and connected.

Mr. Renault stated that the area could not be filled without providing a replication area. An easement to the Town would also be required. The intent of the project is to allow easier access for maintenance of the pipe and also allow for unimpeded water flow.

Monica Tiraldo – 53 Court Street – stated that she has lived at this address for 11 years. She is concerned with safety as the pipe is open. She agreed with Mr. Hornsby that the pipe should be extended.

Mr. Calandra asked why the pipes could not be connected.

Mr. Renault stated there was no room for a replication area. He added that if the adjacent pipe is to be connected in the future, this project would need to be re-designed and budgeted accordingly. This would push the work out to 2022.

Mr. Luciani noted that any additional work would also require a new filing.

Ms. Tiraldo stated that she does not feel it is reasonable to wait another year.

Mr. Luciani asked how much additional pipe would be required.

Mr. Renault stated approximately 150' to 200'.

Mr. Alepidis noted that bordering vegetated wetland (BVW) is not noted on the Notice of Intent application.

Mr. Renault stated that this would be corrected. He added that if the adjacent area is to be pipe in the future, this project would need to be re-designed and budgeted accordingly. This would push the work out to 2022.

The Commission will conduct a site visit Saturday March 6th at 10:00AM.

This matter was continued to 3/11/21.

DEP#313-600 – 100 Hemlock Road – Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School – Public Hearing: Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation for 3,181 linear feet of BVW, 193 linear feet of Inland Bank, 921 linear feet of Riverfront and 770 linear feet of isolated

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vegetated wetland. Michelle Callahan of Nitsch Engineering and Andrea Kendall of LEC Environmental were present for the applicants.

Ms. Kendall stated that the resource areas consist of: BVW, intermittent stream, Saugus River, four isolated vegetated wetlands and four isolated vegetated wetlands. There is no jurisdictional isolated land subject to flooding nor bordering land subject to flooding.

Mr. Romano asked if there are any suspected vernal pools.

Ms. Kendall stated that there could be. As site work was undertaken in early March of 2020 an evaluation was not undertaken.

Ms. Vreeland stated that she had viewed some of the delineation. Some of the area was ice covered and not traversable. She will conduct a site visit with Ms. Kendall next week.

Mr. Luciani suggested that the Commission enlist a consultant to review and confirm the wetland line.

The Commission concurred.

Sal LaRosa – 6 June Circle – asked for the location of the proposed roadway.

Ms. Kendall noted that the project has not yet been designed.

Bob Brooks – June Circle – asked how runoff would be impacted by building in the area behind June Circle.

Mr. Romano noted that this would be reviewed once the project has been designed and the Notice of Intent permit was submitted.

Mary Kelly – June Circle – asked how wildlife disruption, vernal pools and the presence of endangered lady slippers would be addressed.

Ms. Kendall noted that these issues would be addressed once a design plan has been established.

John Dullea – 9 June Circle – expressed concern regarding an increase in flooding.

Ms. Davis stated that these plans would be posted on the Commission website next week.

Ms. Vreeland stated that a list of consultants would be established for review at the next meeting.

This meeting was continued to 3/11/21.

Open Space Plan – Ms. Davis stated that Economic Development Director Erin Kokinda is coordinating with the Massachusetts Area Planning Council regarding updating the Master Plan. She will try to incorporate and update of the Open Space and Recreation Plan at the same time.

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Vision 2030 meeting – Public meeting scheduled for Thursday March 4th at 7:00PM.
Preservation and recreation areas will be discussed. Anyone wishing to attend must pre-register.

Mr. Alepidis made a motion to adjourn.

Ms. Bouhlal made a second to the motion. After polling the members individually, the motion passed. Mr. Luciani abstained.