

Wakefield Conservation Commission (Commission) – Minutes – March 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

3/11/21 minutes – Mr. Calandra made a motion to approve the March 11, 2021 minutes.

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

DEP#313-600 – 100 Hemlock Road – Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational High School – Public Hearing: Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) for 3,181 linear feet of BVW, 193 linear feet of Inland Bank, 921 linear feet of Riverfront and 770 linear feet of isolated vegetated wetland. **At the applicant's request, this matter was continued to April 22, 2021.**

DEP#313-598 – 41 Church Street – Request for minor modification – Town Engineer Bill Renault was present.

Mr. Renault stated that additional information had been submitted following comments from the Department of Environmental Protection.

- Re: work in bordering land subject to flooding – it was noted that work on the proposed swale may grade down to this area. Mr. Renault felt that removal of the head wall and the addition of the pollinator garden would mitigate any impact.
- Spillway calculations and details of work to the bank were provided.
- The high-water level of Lake Quannapowitt was determined based on the survey grade. The highest observed water level over the past year was used.

Mr. Luciani made a motion to accept the changes as a minor modification.

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

2021 Commission appointments – Applicant Daniela Nedbalek introduced herself.

The Commission discussed issuance of a letter to Town Council requesting the re-appointment of Vice Chair Bob Romano, Peter Miller and Teresa Belmonte. As well, the appointment of Ms. Nedbalek as a non-voting associate member. It was felt that this would allow Ms. Nedbalek time to acquaint herself with the regulations and procedures administered by the Commission.

Mr. Calandra made a motion to issue a letter to Town Council with the above noted appointment recommendations.

Mr. Alepidis made a second to the motion.

After polling the members individually, the motion passed unanimously, with an abstention from Mr. Romano on his appointment.

26 Shady Avenue – enforcement order update – It was noted that the Commission had instructed the homeowner to remove the wood chips from the wetland this spring.

Jon Bean – homeowner – stated that he had not been informed of the presence of wetlands when he purchased the property. He has now removed the wood chips from the wetland as directed by the Commission. He is willing to undertake restoration, however stated it would take time due to financial constraints.

Ms. Vreeland conducted a site visit this week. She noted that no soil had been removed.

Mr. Luciani suggested that the Commission conduct a site visit with the property owner. He noted that the main concern was removal of wood chips from the wetland.

Sheilagh Senior – 24 Shady Avenue – Stated that her yard has more water than usual. She feels that this is directly related to the filling next door. She added that the area did not dry up last summer. Although initially supportive of the remediation work proposed by the Commission last fall, she now feels that it should be more extensive.

Mr. Bean noted that all work in the wetland was halted once he was made aware of the Commission's jurisdiction.

Ms. Vreeland will schedule a site visit next week.

Commission applicant – Daniela Nedbalek, Commission applicant was introduced.

Mr. Luciani suggested the re-appointment of Commissioners Vice Chair Bob Romano, Peter Miller and Teresa Belmonte, with Ms. Nedbalek appointed as a non-voting associate member. This will provide time for Ms. Nedbalek to become acquainted with the rules and regulations.

Open Space Plan – Ms. Davis noted that Erin Kokinda, Economic Development Director had planned to participate in this meeting. It was felt that the town-owned parcels adjacent to Mapleway Playground should be reviewed further. Ms. Davis will compile a packet for review at the next meeting. She noted that compilation of an inventory of open space is a goal under the current Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Bronwyn Dellavolpe – Cyrus Street – stated that she is encouraged to see open space being discussed in light of the rapid pace of development in town.

Offshoots bioretention presentation – This has been scheduled for 4/29/21 at 7:30PM.

Ms. Belmonte made a motion to adjourn.

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