

## Wakefield Conservation Commission Minutes – January 3, 2023

Wakefield Conservation Commission (Commission) – Minutes – January 3, 2023

Attendance: Chairman Jim Luciani, Peter Miller, Ken Alepidis, Bob Romano; Teresa Belmonte; Paul Wendelgass; associate member: Haley McHatton-Ballou  
Rebecca Davis, Agent

12/20/22 minutes – Mr. Luciani made a motion to approve the 12/20/22 minutes.

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

14 Sunset Drive – Enforcement Order update – Attorney Jesse Schomer and property owner Mr. Rosenfield were present. Mr. Schomer stated that the fill had been removed and restoration work was completed. A post-restoration report will be submitted.

Ms. Davis stated that Ms. Vreeland conducted a site visit and confirmed completion of the required work.

Mr. Luciani asked if a barrier to the entry point had been established.

Mr. Romano noted that a vegetated barrier had been discussed.

Mr. Schomer will confirm planting of a barrier with their Environmental Scientist Mike DeRosa. He will report back.

Heron Pond Condominiums – At the applicant's request, this matter was continued to 1/17/23.

Coolidge Park – At the applicant's request, this matter was continued to 1/17/23.

Article 97 Land – At the applicant's request, this matter was continued to 1/17/23.

DEP#313-322 – Millbrook Lane Condominiums – discuss Certificate of Compliance – Attorney Ryan Severance was present for the applicants. Mr. Severance stated that a proposal for cleaning the retention basin had been forwarded for review. He added that Peter Ogren of Hayes Engineering would attend the Commission's next meeting to discuss the status of the outstanding Certificate of Compliance.

Ms. Davis stated that she had not yet received a Certificate of Compliance plan. She added that the issue of why a PVC pipe was installed through the applicant's wall to the neighbor's property still needed to be addressed.

Mr. Severance stated that he would follow-up on the issue of the pipe.

This matter was continued to 1/17/23.

Conservation Stewards – The Commission approved solicitation of volunteers for this program.

DEP 313-620 -100 Hemlock Road – Northeast Metropolitan Regional Vocational School – Continued Public Hearing: Notice of Intent for the demolition of existing school, construction of new school, parking lots, athletic fields, utilities, and stormwater management system within Bank, Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), the Buffer Zone, and the Riverfront Area – Dan Wells and Andrea Kendall from LEC Environmental Consultants; David Conway, engineer and Paige Simmons from Nitsch

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Engineering; Kevin Nigro and Joe DeSantis from PMA Consultants; Kate Simmons, Marco Zappala from PMA Consultants, Andrea Kendall of LEC and Josh Millonig from Warner Larson were present for the applicants.

Mr. Conway stated that they are in the process of revising all plans as well as preparing responses to the Commission's peer reviewers comments. This information will be submitted for review prior to the 1/17/23 meeting.

Mr. Millonig stated that retaining walls would be added to minimize wetland impacts. Shields will be installed on lights to limit spillage. Light dimmers would be used in areas closely proximate to the 25' wetland buffer. He noted that wattage used needed to be coordinated with what is needed for security cameras.

Mr. Romano asked if there would be lighting near the wildlife crossings.

Mr. Millonig stated that lighting in these areas would be minimal. Additionally, wattage could be controlled.

Mr. Luciani asked if the density of vegetation affected lighting.

Mr. Millonig stated that it would depend upon the type of vegetation. For example, whether trees are fully leafed or not.

Ms. Belmonte requested submission for the next meeting information regarding the use of dimmers as they relate to security cameras.

Bob Brooks – June Circle – asked if lighting would be installed at the intersection. He expressed concern regarding excess light in the area of June Circle.

Mr. Conway stated that the proposal calls for one light on each side of Hemlock Road.

Mr. Millonig stated that the lights would automatically turn on at dark.

Mr. Nigro stated that they would obtain additional information from the manufacturer.

Bronwyn DellaVolpe – Cyrus Street – asked why the light poles were so high. She felt that a shorter pole would allow for greater control of lighting.

Mr. Millonig stated that a higher pole would distribute light more evenly. He will research whether more control could be gained by using a shorter pole and report back.

Jennifer Fanning – Pheasantwood Drive – asked the effect of lighting on the bat population.

Paul Rybicki – 152 Parker Road – Requested that specific guidelines for lighting best suited for wildlife be submitted. He felt that longer wave length lighting would be beneficial.

Mr. Nigro request submission of questions in advance to allow them to prepare answers.

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Mr. DeSantis would like the Commission to narrow down the answers. He contended that the applicants had answered 100's of questions thus far. It was felt that the Commission's next meeting would be the last.

Mr. Nigro clarified that there needed to be an end point to the questions as cost born by construction delay is a factor for them. He felt that the questions had been answered numerous times.

Christine Rioux – Woodland Road – stated that new questions may come up as the plans are presented.

Mr. Millonig reviewed tree protection plan. He stated that fencing would be installed at the tree line. They would attempt to preserve as many as possible at wetland #1.

Mr. Miller asked if there would be trees between the roadway and the wetland. He added that canopy is important for the southern edge of the wetland.

Mr. Conway stated that the trees on the current plan were identified were during the original road layout.

Mr. Miller stated that the 25' setback to the wetland needed to be the standard. He felt that canopy is critical in this area.

Mr. Conway stated that they would review this issue and report back. He believes that there are additional canopy trees that will remain but are not noted on the plan.

Mr. Millonig stated that the would defer to the Commission regarding where and what is removed in terms of invasive plants. He anticipates most removal will be by hand. Large removal areas would be infilled with wildlife friendly and wetland supporting species.

Mr. Wells stated that an invasive management plan would be submitted. He would like to coordinate a site visit with Ms. Davis to view potential target areas.

Ms. Davis stated that Town Engineer Bill Renault noted that a roundabout would be installed at the intersection. She asked if this would require a land taking.

Mr. Nigro stated that it is not on their property, is not part of this project and is not funded.

Ms. Davis stated that she would reach out to Mr. Renault and report back.

Linda Ireland – Melrose – noted that the series #2 wetland had been damaged during the test pit process and should be revegetated.

Mr. Wells stated that this area would be revegetated with native trees and shrubs. He added that any gaps in the canopy would be filled in as well. A barrier of plastic fencing will be installed in the area of the wildlife crossing to funnel animals through the crossing and keep them from crossing the road.

Mr. Romano asked if a 24" concrete pipe beneath the road could be installed in the same area.

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Mr. Luciani suggested moving the wildlife crossing further down.

Mr. Conway does not believe a second crossing could be installed due to the elevation. He will review and report back.

Mr. Luciani expressed concern with water overflow.

Mr. Conway stated that water currently flows to wetland #2. In the event there is an overflow in that area, water would travel through the culvert to wetland #1.

Ms. Dellavolpe asked if there were any longitudinal studies related to leeching from the plastic wildlife barriers.

Mr. Conway stated that he would research and report back.

Ms. Rioux asked if the applicants were subject to the Commission's tree removal policy.

Mr. Romano noted that they would be. This topic has not yet been reviewed and discussed. It will be covered at a future meeting.

This matter was continued to 1/17/23.

Mr. Luciani assumed chairman duties.

A video presentation of the Northeast Metro Tech (NEMT) Forest was submitted by the NEMT Forest Advocacy Group. This was a flyover of the area, highlighting existing plant and animal species.

Mr. Miller made a motion to adjourn.

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