

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 26, 2011**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Dr. Lisa Standley (Chair), Dawn Stolfi Stalenhoef (Vice Chair), Paul Alpert, Janet Bernardo, Sharon Soltzberg, Patricia Barry (Agent), Elisa Litchman (Assistant)

GUESTS: David Dilanian, Mark Leskanic, Mark Boehnert, Max Boehnert, Diane Simonelli, Karen Skinner Catrone

L. Standley opened the public meeting at 7:38 p.m.

MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes of May 12, 2011 with revisions by J. Bernardo, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 5-0-0.

HEARINGS

21 HIGHLAND AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-609) – *Continued* NOTICE OF INTENT

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 7:45 p.m. L. Standley noted that at the last meeting the Commission had asked for additional information including a Stormwater Operations and Maintenance Plan, along with a detailed Invasive Species Control Plan. Karon Skinner Catrone, the applicant's wetland consultant, explained that the applicant proposes to cut bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), and apply roundup to the cut stems for a period of three years. Additionally, the applicant plans to use jute netting on the steep slope to stabilize the area until the plants mature. The Commission recommended that the planting plan be revised to replace the proposed annual plantings with perennial species. The applicant also proposes the use of Gabions for stormwater best management practices. J. Bernardo noted that Gabions are not on the MA Department of Environmental Protection's approved best management practice list but added that it appears to be a good solution for this particular site. **Motion to close the hearing for 21 Highland Avenue by S. Soltzberg, seconded by J. Bernardo, approved 5-0-0.** The public hearing was closed at 8:03 p.m.

40 WILDWOOD DRIVE (DEP FILE #234-610) - NOTICE OF INTENT

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 8:05 p.m. Paul DiSimone of Colonial Engineering, represented the applicant and presented the proposed project to the Commission. He explained that the old inground pool had collapsed after the applicant had drained the existing pool and that the applicant would like to construct a smaller pool in the same location. The entire area of the pool is located within the 100-year flood plain (Bordering Land Subject to Flooding) associated with the Charles River. P. DiSimone proposed the use of straw wattles as an erosion control measure during the pool construction. The owner, Mark Leskanic, explained to the Commission that the demolition of the old pool had already taken place as a Building Department Permit was issued but shortly thereafter halted by the Building Department who notified him that a permit was required by the Conservation Commission. L. Standley noted that the flagged wetland line between #5 and #8 was incorrect (too high). In response to a question by J. Bernardo, the owner clarified that the entire area within the fence (pre-construction) was impervious. **Motion to close the hearing for 40 Wildwood Drive by S. Soltzberg, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 5-0-0.** The public hearing was closed at 8:23 p.m. **Motion to waive the \$1,000 Bylaw fee for work within the 25-foot no disturb portion of the buffer zone by J. Bernardo, seconded by S.**

Soltzberg, approved 5-0-0. Motion to issue the Order of Conditions for 40 Wildwood Drive (DEP File#234-610) by P. Alpert, seconded by J. Bernardo, approved 5-0-0.

71 LANTERN LANE (DEP FILE#234-611) – NOTICE OF INTENT

L. Standley opened the public hearing at 8:25 p.m. This is an “after-the-fact” Notice of Intent application as the cable line was already installed and the landscaping and re-loading of the lawn already occurred within the 100-foot buffer zone to inland bank and bordering vegetated wetland. Diane Simonelli of Field Resources, Inc. represented the applicant and indicated that no work occurred within the 25-foot no disturb portion of the buffer zone. Based on the photos taken by P. Barry on May 25, 2011, a portion of the lawn within the buffer needed to be re-seeded and restored. **Motion to close the public hearing for 71 Lantern Lane by P. Alpert, seconded by J. Bernardo, approved 5-0-0.** The public hearing was closed at 8:35 p.m. **Motion to issue an Order of Conditions for 71 Lantern Lane (DEP File#234-611) by J. Bernardo, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 5-0-0.**

COMMISSION ACTIONS

174 CHARLES RIVER STREET (EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT) – EXEMPTION LETTER REQUEST

Eagle Scout, Max Boehnert explained to the Commission that he would like to install benches and flower beds at Walker Gordon Pond adjacent to an existing sundial approximately 21-feet from the bordering vegetated wetland. Currently the area is mowed lawn. The benches would be weather proofed and painted prior to installation at the site. Once brought to the site they would be drilled into above ground concrete footings. All work will be located greater than 25-feet from the wetland. L. Standley stated that the flowers should be native species, and therefore, day lilies (*Hemerocallis* sp.) would not be an acceptable species. Furthermore, she elaborated on the importance of native flowers and their ability to attract native insects that are beneficial to the ecosystem as a whole. The Commission recommended that M. Boehnert submit a revised native species list of flowers to be planted in the planting bed for approval by the Commission prior to installation. J. Bernardo asked who would maintain the area. M. Boehnert stated that over the next couple of years he would. The Eagle Scouts will also provide members who can maintain the site as well. **Motion to approve the installation of benches and flower beds as an exempt minor activity at 174 Charles River Street by D. Stolfi Stalenhoef, seconded by J. Bernardo, approved 5-0-0.**

74 PILGRIM ROAD (DEP FILE # 234-602) – MINOR MODIFICATION REQUEST

The applicant withdrew the minor modification request as he filed a Notice of Intent application to install a fence within bordering vegetated wetland.

1336 GREAT PLAIN AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-539) – LANDSCAPE PLAN APPROVAL REQUEST

The applicant, David Dilanian, explained that he has proposed a new Riverfront Area planting plan and that the additional plants have been installed. The plan includes fourteen highbush blueberry shrubs (*Vaccinium corymbosum*), where seven are newly planted on the slope. He believes that the new plan is consistent with the original issued Order of Conditions and satisfies the required riverfront area mitigation. **Motion to approve the revised landscape plan for 1336 Great Plain Avenue (DEP File #234-539) by J. Bernardo, seconded by D. Stolfi Stalenhoef, approved 5-0-0.**

1336 GREAT PLAIN AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-539) – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST

At the May 12, 2011 public hearing the Conservation Commission denied the issuance of a Certificate of Compliance for 1336 Great Plain Avenue for additional information. All information has been received.

Motion to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 1336 Great Plain Avenue (DEP File #234-539) by J. Bernardo, seconded by S. Soltzberg, approved 5-0-0.

1516 CENTRAL AVENUE (DEP FILE#234-511)–CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST

D. Simonelli of Field Resources represented the applicant who requested a Certificate of Compliance. The Commission stated that the request was insufficient because a certificate was not signed by a Professional Engineer or Land Surveyor as required by the Order. Additionally, P. Barry was unable to access the site due to the security gate to see the reconstruction of the barn and additional retaining wall. L. Standley commented that there is concern that the mowing of the property has gone beyond the permitted limits demarcated by the permanent markers adjacent to the streams. P. Barry will coordinate with D. Simonelli and P. Alpert to meet at the site to determine the extent of the mowing violation. J. Bernardo suggested that D. Simonelli submit plans with precise locations of the markers and that a larger plan be submitted to the Commission. **The Commission continued the compliance request for additional information.**

5 BANCROFT STREET (DEP FILE #234-505) - CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST

D. Simonelli of Field Resources explained that this is the Habitat for Humanity house and that the owner has requested a Certificate of Compliance. She explained to the Commission that the house is 94 square feet larger than proposed and includes new steps off the front porch. The Commission stated that the request was insufficient because a certificate was not signed by a Professional Engineer or Land Surveyor as required by the Order. The Commission recommended that D. Simonelli submit a new certified letter that details the discrepancies between the permitted project and the final as-built plans. **The Commission continued the compliance request for additional information.**

OTHER BUSINESS

NEEDHAM COMMUNITY FARM (NIKE SITE) – DISCUSSION

P. Barry explained that the School Committee has leased 1.26 acres of the Nike Site to the Needham Community Farm (NCF). The NCF is required to install a fence around the leased area outside of the 100-foot buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetland and inland bank. However, the proposed fencing will block off one of the Ridge Hill trail heads adjacent to the Nike Site that is inconsistent with the Final Trails Master Plan (2009). The NCF has agreed to move the fencing about 20-feet away from trail entrance to allow for hikers to traverse between properties. Additionally, the NCF is planning to have beehives on site to produce bees, honey and to pollinate. The location of the beehive farm is about 40-feet from the trailhead. The Commission recommended that the bee hives be located at least 50 to 100-feet away from any of the Ridge Hill trails to protect hikers. P. Barry added that the Board of Health will be discussing the bee hives at one of their meetings. P. Barry will inform the Health Department of the Commission's concerns.

NEEDHAM WETLANDS PROTECTION REGULATIONS – REVISION DISCUSSION

The discussion regarding the regulations was tabled until the next meeting of the Commission to be held on June 9, 2011.

RIDGE HILL RESERVATION BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT – DISCUSSION

P. Alpert and C. Shapiro went to Ridge Hill Reservation on Sunday, May 22, 2011 at 5 p.m. after the Re-enactment. P. Alpert stated that he saw paper on the ground and the front of the house showed some disturbance. P. Barry stated that she had driven by and seen hay bales in the middle of the meadows and a large pile of sticks which Forestry department would be removing. It also appeared that loaming and reseeded would be necessary in the disturbed bare areas. The Commission will conduct a more thorough

inspection to determine what would be required to restore the reservation in accordance with the license agreement.

NEEDHAM 300 COMMITTEE - INQUIRY

J. Bernardo informed the Commission that the 300 Committee would like to plant 300 trees in celebration of this tercentenary year. They asked where the Commission would recommend the trees be planted. The Commission suggested that a formal letter explaining the project and asking for recommendations be submitted to the Commission.

Motion to adjourn by D. Stolfi Stalenhoef, seconded by J. Bernardo, approved 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC HEARING

June 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room