

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 25, 2012**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Lisa Standley (Chair), Paul Alpert, Janet Bernardo (arrived at 8:30), Stephen Farr, Sharon Soltzberg, Dawn Stolfi Stalenhof, Debbie Anderson (Acting Agent), Marita Klements (Acting Assistant)

GUESTS: Jim Abusamra, Karon Skinner Catrone, Mikhail Deychman, Bill Lenahan, Vincent Roy, Thomas Ryder, Vlad Vilkomir.

L. Standley opened the public meeting at 7:35 PM.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the Minutes of September 27, 2012 as amended by S. Soltzberg, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 4-0-0.

Motion to approve the Minutes of October 11, 2012 as amended by S. Farr, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 4-0-0.

ENFORCEMENT AND VIOLATION UPDATES

1516 CENTRAL AVENUE – ENFORCEMENT ORDER

L. Standley stated that the Commission has received a letter from Field Resources, Inc. updating the Commission on the filing status of the after-the-fact Notice of Intent submittal. D. Anderson stated that she spoke with D. Simonelli earlier that day and Ms. Simonelli stated that the Notice of Intent would be filed by the November 1st deadline. In addition, the letter explained that prior to the issuance of the Enforcement Order and Cease and Desist Order, trenches had been excavated for utility installation from the primary structure to the gate, drive and accessory structures. The existing trench is two to three feet deep and the applicant feels that these open trenches pose a hazard and has requested permission from the Commission to fill the trenches in. The Commission gave permission for the applicant to fill in the trenches.

HEARINGS

151 TAYLOR STREET – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF APPLICABILITY

K. Skinner Catrone, Wetlands Specialist, represented the Applicant. The proposal is to construct a 19'x11' second story deck with stairs down to the ground level. It will replace an existing deck which was not built to code and must be replaced for safety reasons. The only excavation necessary will be for the deck footings and all excavated materials will be taken off-site. There is a slope down to the wetland and erosion controls are proposed along the existing sewer easement. There will be no tree removal, and the proposed deck will be pervious. D. Anderson conducted a site visit and stated that their description is accurate and she agreed with the wetland delineation.

Motion to close the public hearing for 151 Taylor Street by S. Farr, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 4-0-0.

Motion to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 151 Taylor Street, by P. Alpert, seconded by S. Farr, approved 4-0-0.

71 STOCKDALE ROAD (DEP FILE #234-651) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT

K. Skinner Catrone, Wetlands Specialist, represented the Applicant. Ms. Catrone stated that the Plan with a final revision date of October 15, 2012 is the correct Plan for review by the Commission. The Applicant proposed leaving a 10-foot vegetated strip between the edge of the wetlands and the boundary of sod. Supplemental plantings proposed within this 10-foot strip include: three (3) highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) shrubs; three (3) red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) shrubs; three (3) common winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) shrubs and three (3) red maple (*Acer rubrum*) trees. The proposed fence will be installed with a four inch gap at the bottom to allow wildlife movement and will be located at the boundary of the wetland and edge of sod. The erosion controls will be installed 26-feet from the wetland. The work proposed on the down gradient side of the erosion controls will consist of the installation of sod, fencing and mitigation plantings. The Commission requested additional erosion controls consisting of filter sock be installed between the sod and the wetlands and the Applicant agreed. No tree removal or regrading is proposed.

Motion to close the public hearing for 71 Stockdale Road (DEP File #234-651) by S. Farr, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 4-0-0.

Motion to waive strict compliance with the Bylaw Regulations for work in the 25-foot buffer zone by S. Soltzberg, seconded by S. Farr, approved 4-0-0.

Motion to issue an Order of Conditions, as amended, for the demolition and construction of a new single-family dwelling with associated site work, fencing, driveway and installation of mitigation plantings at 71 Stockdale Road (DEP File #234-651) by P. Alpert, seconded by S. Farr, approved 4-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

914 CHARLES RIVER STREET (DEP FILE # 234-628) – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST

V. Roy, Needham Water & Sewer Division Superintendent represented the Town to the Commission. He explained that all of the work had been completed. D. Anderson has completed a site visit and found no issues.

Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 914 Charles River Street (DEP File #234-628) by P. Alpert, seconded by S. Farr, approved 4-0-0.

LAKE DRIVE – CHANNEL REPAIR (DEP FILE#234-630) – DPW GENERAL REPAIR/MAINTENANCE ACTIVITY NOTIFICATION

V. Roy, Needham Water & Sewer Division Superintendent represented the DPW to the Commission. Mr. Roy explained that there is an easement located at the end of Lake Drive. An 18” drain pipe connects to a man-hole and stormwater discharges down an existing rip rap channel that flows to Rosemary Brook. Mr. Roy explained that a trash collection screen installed within the man-hole was blocked. After a heavy rain, the stormwater was forced out of the man-hole by the blockage and down the channel at such a rate that a portion of the rip rap and underlying geo-textile fabric was ripped out. The proposal is to replace some rip-rap that has been washed out. The original stone that washed away was 6-10 inches. It was too small, and should be replaced with 14-18 inch stone. The DPW intends to cover the exposed area with geo-fabric, and then cover it with the replacement stone. The work can be done with wheelbarrows, heavy equipment will not be necessary. The work will be contracted out by the engineering department. The Commission reminded Mr. Roy that erosion controls will be required at the bottom of the slope while the work is on-going.

Motion to approve the DPW General Repair/Maintenance Activity Notification (DEP File #234-630) for the repair of a portion of the rip-rap channel located in the drainage easement at the end of Lake Drive by S. Soltzberg, seconded by S. Farr, approved 4-0-0.

636 CHARLES RIVER STREET – HAZARD TREE REMOVAL REQUEST

Jim Abusamra, of Hartney Greymont, an arborist representing the Applicant explained that there are three (3) eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*) trees the Applicant feels are a hazard and need to be removed. One of these trees is located outside of the Commissions jurisdiction. A large limb broke off of this tree in a recent storm. Mr. Abusamra examined the tree and found it to be consumed by brown rot. His recommendation is to remove this tree as a hazard. The other two trees are within the 100-foot buffer to Forbes Pond. One of the trees appears to be afflicted with the same brown rot. He is less certain of the third tree, but believes it will be subject to windthrow without the protection of the other two trees, and may endanger power lines. The Applicant intends to plant at least 6 trees, including 3 or 4 large sugar maples, which is consistent with the Towns Tree Removal Guidelines. The Commission explained that per the Guidelines, six foot snags should be retained when the two trees in the buffer are removed. The Applicants Representative agreed. The Commission required that the Applicant submit a planting plan and letter to the Commission agreeing to implement the proposed planting plan.

Motion to approve the hazard trees removal at 636 Charles River Street as an exempt minor activity conditioned upon receipt of a planting plan and approval letter from the Applicant, by S. Soltzberg, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 4-0-0.

NEEDHAM WETLANDS PROTECTION BYLAW – FILING FEE SCHEDULE – DISCUSSION

L. Standley explained to the Commission that it had been brought to her attention by the Conservation Agent that the current bylaw filing fee schedule calculates the complete demo and re-build of a single family home with landscaping, driveway etc. at \$250 for the entire project. The fee schedule calculates a minor activity filing fee at \$150 for each activity (pool, driveway etc.). Basically, an entire house with site work can be permitted for \$250, yet a few smaller projects at an existing single family home could quickly exceed \$250. The Commission discussed different alternatives. P. Alpert stated that this would be an amendment to the regulations, and would need to be advertised. He suggested that the fee for new residential construction be \$500, and a minor project fee be \$50 for each activity, and be capped at \$250. The Commission stated that this issue should be included on a future agenda.

RIDGE HILL IMPROVEMENTS - DISCUSSION

L. Standley informed the Commission that there are a number of improvement projects going forward for Ridge Hill. There is a Scout project to install blue-bird boxes. A mason will be repairing the stone walls. A split rail fence will be installed along the drive to prevent people from driving into the fields, and a gate will be installed at Cartwright Road. The kick off meeting for the swamp trail will be next week.

Motion to adjourn by S. Soltzberg, seconded by P. Alpert, approved 4-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

NEXT PUBLIC HEARING

November 15, 2012, 7:30 PM in the Needham Public Library, Community Room, 1139 Highland Avenue, Needham