

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, December 20, 2012**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Lisa Standley (Chair), Paul Alpert, Janet Carter Bernardo, Stephen Farr, Marsha Salett, Sharon Soltzberg, Dawn Stolfi Stalenhof, Debbie Anderson (Acting Agent), Marita Klements (Assistant)

GUESTS: Alex Caufield, David Conway, Fred King, Steve Petrucci

L. Standley opened the public meeting at 7:32 pm.

**MINUTES**

**Motion to approve the minutes of December 6, 2012, as amended, by P. Albert, seconded by S. Farr, approved 4-0-0.**

**ENFORCEMENTS**

**5 BANCROFT STREET**

D. Anderson stated that per the Commission's request, a violation letter was sent to the owners of 5 Bancroft Street asking them to come to the December 20, 2012 Commission Meeting to discuss tree removal in the wetland/buffer zone. The work is in violation of the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act and Town of Needham Wetland's Protection Bylaw. As of today, the Conservation Department has not received the confirmation of receipt or had any response from the owner. The Commission instructed D. Anderson to wait a week before taking any further action.

**213 WASHINGTON STREET**

D. Anderson stated that a resident had reported that trees had been cut at this address and may be near a wetland. D. Anderson noted that an Order of Conditions for the property was recently closed out. D. Anderson visited the site and confirmed that tree clearing had occurred in the wetland. The Commission authorized D. Anderson to send a violation letter requesting that the owners attend the January 10, 2013 meeting to discuss the tree clearing.

**HEARINGS**

**1516 CENTRAL AVENUE (DEP FILE # 234-654) – continued NOTICE OF INTENT**

**Motion to close the public hearing for 1516 Central Avenue by S. Soltzberg, seconded by J. C. Bernardo, approved 6-0-1.**

**Motion to issue an Order of Conditions, as amended, for 1516 Central Avenue (DEP FILE # 234-654) by P. Alpert, seconded by S. Farr, approved 6-0-1.**

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1155 CENTRAL AVENUE – NEWMAN SCHOOL (DEP FILE #234-665) – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST**

D. Anderson reported that she had visited the site and found all the work complete and the site stable. Dave Conway represented the Applicant.

**Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 1155 Central Avenue (DEP FILE #234-665) by P. Alpert, seconded by J. C. Bernardo, approved 7-0-0.**

### **77 SYLVAN ROAD – HIGH ROCK SCHOOL (DEP FILE #234-518) – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST**

D. Anderson reported that she had visited the site and found the work complete, the site stable and plantings in good shape. She noted that she observed some type of raised beds had been installed adjacent to the field along the entrance drive. Fred King, representing the Applicant, confirmed that a number of student archaeological dig sites have been installed by the school. A portion of one of them is within the 100 ft. buffer zone. They are similar to raised planting beds, or sandboxes. They do not block the drainage. J. Bernardo asked for confirmation that the swale had been laid out and constructed in accordance with the Order. Mr. King reported that the swales and drainage systems are in good working order and performed perfectly during and after Tropical Storm Sandy.

**Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 77 Sylvan Road (DEP FILE # 234-518) by S. Farr, seconded by M. Salett, approved 7-0-0.**

### **22 MILLER STREET (DEP FILE #234-644) – CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE REQUEST**

Mr. Petrucci represented the Applicant. D. Anderson visited the site and reported that the work was complete and the site is stable.

**Motion to issue the Certificate of Compliance for 22 Miller Street (DEP FILE #234-644) by P. Alpert, seconded by J. C. Bernardo, approved 7-0-0.**

### **463 CHARLES RIVER STREET – RIDGE HILL EAGLE SCOUT BIRD BOX PROJECT – MINOR ACTIVITY - EXEMPTION REQUEST**

Eagle Scout prospect Alex Caulfield presented his project to the Commission. He has planned to build 6 bluebird boxes and install them at Ridge Hill Reservation on Charles River Street for his Eagle Scout project. In addition to other materials regarding the project, the Commission had received a Site Location Map showing the tentative installation locations of the boxes. L. Standley asked where he found the box design he planned to use. Mr. Caulfield replied that the box design he chose comes from Boy's Life Magazine, and conforms to Audubon Society Standards. The Commission suggested some alternative placements for the boxes and required that he submit revised installation locations to the Commission for approval prior to installation. The installation process will be done by hand. The installation will likely occur in March.

**Motion to accept the proposed project at Ridge Hill Reservation, and to allow the proposed project as a Minor Exempt Activity, conditional upon receipt of revised box locations, at 463 Charles River Street, Ridge Hill Reservation, by J. C. Bernardo, seconded by D. Stolfi Stalenhoef, approved 7-0-0.**

### **449 CENTRAL AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-581) – MINOR MODIFICATION REQUEST**

Neither the Applicant nor their representative attended the Meeting. L. Standley explained that the proposed minor modification request included; the installation of a leaching basin at the end of the driveway and the installation of a walkway from the driveway to the patio. The Commission had no concerns with the proposal.

**Motion to accept installation of a leaching basin and walkway at 449 Central Avenue (DEP FILE # 234-581) as a minor modification not requiring an amendment to the Order of Conditions by J. C. Bernardo, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.**

**865 CENTRAL AVENUE (DEP FILE# 234-619) – MINOR MODIFICATION REQUEST**

Chris Novak, representing North Hill Life Care Facility gave the Commission an overview of the project. He explained that there is an offsite stormwater detention facility on East Militia Heights Road. The basin has been constructed as approved but does not function properly. Further testing has shown that a layer of organic material is underlying a portion of the basin impeding infiltration at an acceptable rate. By excavating this layer of material and exposing the well-draining layer beneath, the infiltration issue should be resolved. They intend to maintain the volume, but excavate deeper. There would be approximately 10,000 square feet of further excavation. A two foot ground water separation will be maintained. The Commission suggested that the Applicant double check the erosion controls before more rain fell.

**Motion to accept additional excavation within the stormwater detention basin at 865 Central Avenue (DEP FILE # 234-619) as a minor modification not requiring an amendment to the Order of Conditions by J. C. Bernardo, seconded by S. Farr, approved 7-0-0.**

**Motion to adjourn by J. C. Bernardo, seconded by S. Farr, approved 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 pm.**

**NEXT PUBLIC HEARING**

*January 10, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room*