

**TOWN OF NEEDHAM
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 9, 2019**

LOCATION: Public Services Administration Building (PSAB), Charles River Room

ATTENDING: Peter Oehlkers (Chair), Sue Barber, Artie Crocker, William Murphy, Alison Richardson, Debbie Anderson (Director of Conservation), Elisa Litchman (Administrative Assistant).

GUESTS: Karon Skinner Catrone, Hank Haff, Donald Walter

P. Oehlkers opened the public meeting at 7:35 p.m.

MINUTES: Minutes for the April 25, 2019 meeting were reviewed.

Motion to approve the minutes of April 25, 2019 by W. Murphy, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 4-0-1 (A. Crocker abstained).

ENFORCEMENTS AND VIOLATIONS

SABRINA LAKE

Due to review of the Notice of Intent for 403 Grove Street the violation of debris alongside Sabrina Lake and on the property of the owners became evident. The Commission discussed the fact that SOLitude should know that this is a violation and it is wrong. D. Anderson called and discussed the situation with M. Salem from SOLitude Lake Management and he seemed confused. The violations include the fact that SOLitude did not follow through and request use of hydroraking if they thought this was necessary. They do not have free license to hydrorake and they did not come before the Commission to discuss this. An amendment to the Order for treating Sabrina Lake (DEP File # 234-529) was issued in October 2017. There were three potential chemical treatments approved by the Commission and if hydro raking was deemed necessary the applicant would come before the Commission.

Several violations are apparent. Depositing and dumping not only what was taken from the Lake but based on the photos D. Anderson took onsite there is trash as well as pieces of cut tree limbs. The Commission agreed that a site visit is necessary and that SOLitude should attend the visit as well. Many questions remain. The Commission decided to visit the site on Tuesday, May 14th at 7:30am. The Commission also decided to suspend their vote on the permit for 403 Grove Street (DEP File #234-833) until they have answers regarding this violation.

HEARINGS:

403 GROVE STREET (DEP FILE #234-833) – NOTICE OF INTENT

K. Skinner Catrone represents the owners at 403 Grove Street. This Notice of Intent is to remove all the debris that was dredged last fall from the lake and laid on the property, to replant the area where the vegetation has subsequently died, and to do minor regrading of the area. SOLitude Lake Management has a contract with the Friends of Sabrina Lake (where this property abuts) to maintain the lake's water. That Order of Conditions DEP File #234-529 also has an amendment which was issued in 2017 to hydro-rake, if necessary.

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According to K. Skinner Catrone it is her understanding that SOLitude Lake Management approached various property owners along the lake and suggested that they sign a contract with the company to hydro rake the lake for a fee, lay out the debris to allow it to dry out in what has been referred to as a dewatering corral, and finally the owners or SOLitude would remove the debris. D. Anderson explained to the Commission that she contacted Matt Salem of SOLitude to inquire about the situation. She said he responded surprised and confused. The Conservation Commission does not have individual Order of Conditions with each of the homeowners; the Order covers the lake and the applicant is the association, "Friends of Sabrina Lake". A. Richardson stated it is illegal to leave the debris where it is. It is a violation and has been there all year. P. Oehlkers suggested to the Commission that the violation be discussed apart from this hearing.

K. Skinner Catrone reviewed the planting area and what the owners propose to plant. The area also has Japanese Knotweed which A. Richardson suggested be removed and addressed with Round Up with Surfactant. The invasive species should be cut and dabbed. The optimal time of year to do this is August. Discussion ensued about the manner in which all the debris would be removed from the property. The Commission agreed that there should be no machinery used in the area. Small machinery could be located no closer than 100' from the lake. The access path to the debris needs to be shown on the plan, likely to be where the area is not so steep. This is a restoration project. Five species of proposed plantings are detailed on the plans and the Commission was agreeable to them. The Commission decided that the violation needs to be addressed before an Order of Conditions is drafted and issued. The owners could be partially responsible.

Motion to close the public hearing for 403 Grove Street (DEP File #234-833) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

585 CENTRAL AVENUE (DEP FILE #234-787) SUNITA L. WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – MINOR MODIFICATION REQUEST

Hank Haff, Project Manager for the Sunita Williams Elementary School presented to the Commission. The project is scheduled to be complete mid-June. This minor modification is to request that the equipment for the playground game of Gaga be dismantled and moved from Hillside School to Sunita Williams. The equipment spans 20' across when assembled and crushed stone would be in the interior space providing permeability. H. Haff explained the proposed location of the game equipment being near the end of the playground adjacent to the emergency access drive lane to the school. There is no place in the playground for the Gaga game.

Motion to approve the minor modification to 585 Central Avenue (DEP File #234-787) by A. Crocker, seconded by A. Richardson, approved 5-0-0.

RIDGE HILL USE REQUEST

Pack 23 of the Cub Scouts in Needham has requested to use the Ridge Hill Reservation picnic and parking lot areas for a picnic and carnival event on June 1st from 2-6pm. They have requested this use in the years past. The Commission agreed to approve the use. P. Oehlkers signed the approval form.

60 WILDWOOD DRIVE (DEP FILE # 234-763) – ISSUE AMENDED ORDER OF CONDITIONS

Motion to issue the amended Order of Conditions for 60 Wildwood Drive (DEP File #234-763) by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0.

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST POSITION

D. Anderson reported to the Commission that Clayton Hutchinson has accepted the job offer for the Conservation Specialist position and will be starting in this position on June 3rd.

ADJOURN:

Motion to adjourn by W. Murphy, seconded by S. Barber, approved 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.

NEXT PUBLIC MEETING:

May 23, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in the Public Services Administration Building, Charles River Room.