



RECEIVED

2022 SEP 19 AM 10:22

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
NORTH READING, MASS.

TOWN OF NORTH READING
Massachusetts

Conservation Commission

Minutes

August 10, 2022

Members Present: Lori Mitchener, Chair; Tomas Sanchez, Vice Chair; Randy Mason, Melissa Campbell

Absent: Lauren Beshara; Leah Basbanes, Conservation Agent;
Jim Cheney, Associate Member

Staff Present: Jennifer Ryan, Administrative Assistant

Vice-Chair Tomas Sanchez called the Wednesday, August 10th, meeting of the Conservation Commission to order at 6:00 PM, by reading the following statement:

On July 16, 2022, Lt. Governor Polito signed into law the extension of An Act Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency. This Act includes an extension, until March 31, 2023, of the remote meeting provisions of the March 12, 2020, Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. The new law allows public bodies to continue providing live "adequate, alternative means" of public access, i.e. Zoom, to the deliberations of the public body. The law also authorizes all members of a public body to continue participating in meetings remotely.

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, the Conservation Commission states for the record that this meeting is being recorded and may be recorded by other individuals or media. The public can listen/view/participate in this meeting while in progress by joining the Zoom meeting as posted on the Town website. Members of the public attending this meeting virtually will be allowed to make comments if they wish to do so, during the portion of the hearing designated for public comment.

The Zoom meeting ID is 814 2283 0202

Further information and the plans for each agenda item may be found on the Town Website [Home](#) >> [Boards & Committees](#) >> [Conservation Commission](#)>>Public Hearings

Bills

MACC Annual Dues Fiscal Year 2023 in the amount of \$597.00

Reimbursement to Tomas Sanchez in the amount of \$632.09 for MACC courses

Voted 4-0 to approve MACC Annual dues and reimbursement to Tomas Sanchez.

Minutes

7/26/22 meeting

Motion made by Tomas Sanchez, seconded by Melissa Campbell;
voted 4-0 to approve 7/26/22 minutes.

Discussions

Appoint a Conservation Representative for the Land Utilization Committee

Voted 4-0 to approve Randy Mason as Conservation Representative for the
Land Utilization Committee.

Request for Extension of Order of Conditions

19 Riverside Drive (245-1554) for the eradication of invasive plant life, Japanese Knotweed, with herbicides. Ms. Basbanes provided notes that explained that there is an existing OOC which is scheduled to expire in October. Because of Covid and then contractor issues, the work was never fully completed. The Homeowners are therefore requesting an extension to the OOC for 3 years and would like to add to it the ability to eradicate the Japanese Knotweed. They are working with a professional, Brian Scholter from Sumco Eco Contracting and when Ms. Basbanes did a site visit, the knotweed had been cut and she asked why and explained that this was a different methodology than used to address knotweed in the past. His response was as follows:

“Cutting the knotweed now was to set up for greater effectiveness from the herbicides as well as prevent further flowering and seed dispersal. By cutting the stalks the plant will use its reserve energy to resprout new stalks over the coming weeks leaving it weaker. At the end of the growing season, the plants will try to keep this energy and send it back down into the root and rhizome system underground. By applying herbicide at this time, it will pull the chemical down with the energy to kill off the entire plant most effectively. Since the growth must restart, we will be applying to much shorter plants which will reduce the total amount of herbicide used, and allow for precision spraying. The herbicide used will be an aquatic approved Glyphosate (brand names Rodeo or Roundup Custom). Unfortunately for knotweed

there are not options when it comes to effective chemicals. These products are variants of other Glyphosate products designed specifically for aquatic safety. "

Motion made by Randy Mason, seconded by Melissa Campbell;
voted 4-0 to approve the Request for Extension of Order of Conditions.

Certificate of Compliance

107 Park Street (245-1690) construction of a single family house and septic system. An As-Built plan and letter have been submitted, the site looks compliant and the trash and metal debris has been removed from the wetlands. Recommendation is for the issuance of a COC.

Motion made by Randy Mason, seconded by Melissa Campbell;
voted 4-0 to approve the Certificate of Compliance.

Public Hearings

200 Haverhill Street (245-1724) replacement of a septic system serving an existing single family dwelling and located within 100' buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Luke Roy of LJR Engineering was present on behalf of homeowner, Maureen Ryan. He reported that the septic was a challenging design due to wetlands being on all sides of the property. Mr. Roy also reported that they tested a few different areas around the property but the best possible place for the system would be behind the house and pool. He further discussed that the system in the front of the house will be abandoned and placed in an area that is flat and currently lawn. A row of boulders will be installed along the north edge of the system to hold the grade. Leah Basbanes had no issues with this and recommends issuance of OOC with standard 46 special conditions. Discussion was had with regard to lawn clippings being discarded over the fence into the wetlands. Mr. Roy was not aware of where they were going but didn't notice anything obvious. Ms. Mitchener asked about the height of the bump and whether it was going to be higher than the pool. Luke Roy said it would be about 12-18" higher. No abutters present.

Motion made by Randy Mason, seconded by Melissa Campbell;
voted 4-0 to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the 46 Standard Conditions, but adding another special condition to demarcate the 12' no disturb zone on the south side of the septic.

1 Eisenhaure Lane (245-1723) replacement of a septic system serving an existing single family dwelling and located within 100' buffer zone to Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Septic system replacement of failed system to be located in the same location in front of the house. It will be 83' to the wetland at the closest point. Erosion control will be installed along limit of work along the east, but plan does not show it on the west side due to slope, retaining wall and

driveway being there. Erosion along this side is unlikely but should be monitored during the project. There were no further concerns with the project and no abutters present.

Motion made by Randy Mason, seconded by Melissa Campbell;
voted 4-0 to close the public hearing and issue an Order of Conditions with the
standard 46 Special Conditions.

5 Sumner Street (245-1725) proposing to install an in ground pool, concrete deck, patio, landscape wall, grading and associated utilities within the 100' buffer zone of Bordering Vegetated Wetlands. Construction of an in ground pool and patio. Grading will be required along with a landscape retaining wall. The pool will be in the back yard that is currently maintained lawn and enclosed with a fence. The patio will be approx. 20' from the wetland at the closest point. The amount of impervious area will be up to 20% with the project. The amount of buffer alteration is at 93% which exceeds the 75%, though this lot was previously altered. This a new house and has improved the overall condition of this parcel. That being said, there could be some area of lawn that could be converted back to a naturally vegetated condition. Discussion on process to meet the 75% threshold, was for the homeowners and or consultant to meet with Agent to determine area of lawn to revert back to natural condition. No issues with the pool project otherwise. No abutters present.

Motion made by Randy Mason, seconded by Melissa Campbell;
voted 4-0 to close the public hearing and issue a standard Order of Conditions with a
Special Condition of the agent meeting with the homeowners and or consultant to
determine area of lawn to revert back to natural condition in order to reduce the
amount of buffer alteration from 93% to 75%.

Adjourn

Randy Mason moved, seconded by Melissa Campbell, and voted 4-0;
That the Conservation Commission adjourn the meeting at 6:40 PM

Approved Melissa A Campbell Dated 9/19/2022