

**Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 17, 2019, 7:00 PM**  
**Room 111, Brookline Town Hall**

**Commissioners Present:** Roberta Schnoor (Acting Chair), Marian Lazar (Associate), Pamela Harvey, Werner Lohe, Pallavi Kalia Mande, Deb Myers

**Commissioners Absent:** Benjamin Wish, Marcus Quigley (Chair)

**Staff Present:** Tom Brady (Conservation Administrator), Katie Weatherseed (Conservation Assistant)

**Guests:** See attached.

**AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES**

R. Schnoor, acting chair, called the meeting to order. No amendments were made to the Agenda. The Commissioners reviewed the minutes from July 23<sup>rd</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup>.

*W. Lohe made a motion to approve both sets of minutes. P. Harvey seconded. All in favor.*

**CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE NOTICE OF INTENT FOR 69 PRINCETON RD**

B. Timm stated that since the last public hearing, he had revised the plan set for the project, created an Operations and Maintenance Plan, and provided the Commission with a video scope of the pipe. He continued that he met with P. Ditto, who did not express concerns regarding the capacity of the pipe. B. Timm stated that he is aware of the abutters' concerns regarding the fill, and what will happen if the proposed system fails. He responded that the amount of fill proposed is minor, and should both systems fail, the water level would rise by approximately 0.3 inches. He continued that there has been conversation with the owner of 69 Princeton Road and the abutters, and the Applicant is willing to look at a secondary system for the neighborhood. R. Kirby stated that by alleviating flooding associated with the ponding on 69 Princeton Road, it will also help alleviate flooding on the surrounding properties. He added that he spoke with F. Russell who communicated that he would rather a gravity system. B. Timm stated that the Applicant plans to videoscope all pipes each year to monitor for sedimentation. If there is clogging, the pipes will be cleaned. R. Kirby stated that he has spoken with the Applicant about reevaluating the sprinkler system in the rear yard.

P. Harvey asked for clarification on where the proposed fill will be located and whether it will be raised above the existing elevation of the lawn. It was clarified that the stone trench will be higher, however the pipe will not be higher. The fill consists of stone gravel topped with loam.

D. Gentile stated that there are still many unanswered questions, and should this project fail, it will have a negative impact on the surrounding properties and alter the wetland. D. Gentile continued that his clients would prefer to see a substantial pumping system, and do not want patchwork solutions. M. Bartlett, of Stantec, stated that the wetland has migrated onto the neighbors' land and has changed their properties. He explained that the proposed project falls short in a number of ways, including the minor slope of the proposed pipes, logistical maintenance should the property ownership change hands, lack of information on the lateral pipes coming off the main system, lack of information on the capacity of the pipe, and a lack of information on the check dam. He recommended that the applicant and abutters establish a neighborhood association. M. Bartlett also stated that he recommends a pumping system.

P. Harvey asked for more information about the migration of the wetland. M. Bartlett stated that it has migrated south and west. D. Myers inquired whether all the work proposed would be taking place on the applicant's property. M. Bartlett voiced his concern about the lack of understanding of the legal rights to the pipe. B. Timm stated that he has had conversations with an abutter and has received their permission to connect to the existing pipe.

R. Schnoor described the lens through which the Commission has to review this project. She stated that the Commission cannot respond to additional projects that are being suggested, and can only review the project in front of them. The hearing was opened to the general public.

S. Muthuswany of 135 Lagrange Street stated that his concern is not to block this project for the sake of it, but to prevent the consequences of this project from taking place. He stated that the process of installing pipes will impact the water levels on the abutters' properties. K. Miller, of 52 Rangeley Road, stated that he has seen the water levels rise on his property and he is concerned that there is no guarantee that this project will not affect his property. The homeowner of 72 Rangeley Road stated that they have reported a rat issue as a result of the flooding. L. Muthuswany, of 135 Lagrange Street, stated that she had sent T. Brady pictures showing the timeline of the flooding. R. Fisch, of 79 Princeton Road, stated that she has noticed an increase in the number of insects and pests. She has also observed work taking place on 69 Princeton Road. The homeowner at 72 Rangeley Road stated that they had observed the applicant installing new plantings. R. Kirby stated that there would be inspection reports for any future work. M. Bartlett replied that he does not believe that inspection reports will do anything. L. Muthuswany requested that the applicant order hydrographs around the wetland.

B. Timm stated that the applicant is willing to work with neighbors on an additional project. P. Miller stated that there was a wetland where the house at 69 Princeton Road was built, and that the water has been displaced into the abutters' backyards. He stated that he believes the proposed project will only benefit the applicant.

P. K. Mande asked whether the movement of the wetland has been mapped. R. Kirby stated that there are maps associated with previous applications for work on 69 Princeton Road.

W. Lohe stated that the whole area has been changing, and any fill added to the property will not benefit the resource. He stated that his stance at the moment would be to not approve the application.

*D. Myers made a motion to close the hearing. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.*

### **PERENNIAL STREAMS**

T. Brady stated that there are no updates.

### **MUDDY RIVER REVIEW**

T. Brady stated that the project has gone out to bid and that bids have been received.

### **STAFF UPDATE**

- Charles River Climate Compact: P. K. Mande stated that W. Lohe will act as the Town's representative in an initiative to get municipalities to collaborate to explore regional green infrastructure opportunities and the MVP grant gaps analysis. CRWA will facilitate conversations between municipalities, and will encourage the sharing of resources and information, and help communities to identify shared needs. W. Lohe will staff 2 meetings, but the position will eventually need to be staffed by Town personnel. October 3<sup>rd</sup> will be the formal kickoff.

### **ADJOURN**

*P. Harvey made a motion to adjourn. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.*

*Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed*