

Brookline Conservation Commission Meeting
Tuesday, October 1, 2019, 7:00 PM
School Committee Room, Brookline Town Hall

Commissioners Present: Roberta Schnoor, Marcus Quigley, Pamela Harvey, Pallavi Kalia Mande, Marian, Benjamin Wish

Commissioners Absent: Deborah Myers

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

Guests: See attached.

AGENDA REVIEW/MINUTES

M. Quigley was running late to the meeting, so R. Schnoor, acting chair, called the meeting to order. No amendments were made to the agenda. The Commission reviewed the minutes from September 17, 2019. P. Harvey and R. Schnoor suggested some minor amendments to the minutes.

P. Harvey made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. P. K. Mande seconded. All in favor.

STAFF UPDATE

T. Brady stated that B. Wish has drafted an Open Space and Recreation Plan press release for the Commission's review. The Commission reviewed the press release and had no amendments to suggest. P. K. Mande asked about reaching beyond Brookline and T. Brady stated that the plan will be circulated broadly, and he would be interested in hearing suggestions for further circulation.

T. Brady distributed membership cards for the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.

MUDDY RIVER REVIEW

T. Brady stated that they need more time to assess the current bids.

NOTICE OF INTENT FOR 69 PRINCETON RD

M. Quigley, Chair, arrived. The Commission reviewed the draft order of conditions. T. Brady stated that R. Schnoor compiled an alternate list of findings for the Commission's review. R. Schnoor commented that since the site in question has a complex history, she thought it might be beneficial to list findings that speak to the context of the project. She believes her findings could work independently of those drafted by Staff, or certain findings could be inserted into Staff's draft. The Commission determined that all of the proposed findings, both R. Schnoor's and those prepared by Staff, should be included in the final Order. They discussed possible orders for the findings and agreed on a final sequence.

The Commission discussed possible revisions to the Order of Conditions. T. Brady identified several conditions that he drafted which speak to the specific issues discussed in the hearing.

R. Schnoor made a motion to issue the Order of Conditions for BWB 19-01 69 Princeton Road, as amended. P. K. Mande seconded. W. Lohe abstained. All in favor.

J. Gleason, abutter, stated that she has called the Town's building department and has been dismayed at the Town's response. She discussed some of the work she has observed at 69 Princeton Road with T. Brady. J. Gleason asked for a copy of the plan, and inquired as to where she can find the Wetlands Protection Act and the Brookline Wetlands Protection Bylaw. T. Brady responded that K. Weatherseed can send J. Gleason the requested documents. She voiced her concern about the presence of rats and her desire to clean the resource area.

S. Fisch, abutter, stated that he has observed work taking place at 69 Princeton Road and described how the site has changed. M. Quigley replied that he understands that this situation is challenging and empathizes with the abutters, but he clarified that the Commission has a limited set of tools with which they can use when reviewing a project. He continued that the Commission's role is to determine whether a proposed project will adversely impact a wetland resource, and the Commission has decided to allow them to progress with the project.

S. Muthuswamy, abutter, stated his concerns that the proposed project will impact the wetland and communicated his disagreement with the Commission's determination. R. Schnoor stated that permitting the project does not preclude the neighbors from coming together and finding another solution. She continued that the applicant has communicated their willingness to work with the neighborhood. T. Brady stated that the Commission's legal authority, based on the regulations in place, is to ensure that a project will not have an adverse impact on a wetland resource. He stated that based on plans presented to the Commission, they have determined that this project will not have an adverse impact on the wetland. Additionally, the Order of Conditions ties the applicant to the specific calculations and design standards that the Commission have determined will not have an adverse impact on the resource. P. K. Mande stated that it is not the Commission's role to develop solutions to the problem at hand – their role is to review projects brought before them.

PERENNIAL STREAMS

T. Brady stated that there were no updates.

STAFF UPDATE (CONT.)

T. Brady stated that the Commission permitted algaecide treatment for the Country Club several years ago, and that they have started to administer the treatment with some frequency and has communicated to them that a different solution must be found.

T. Brady stated that the Eagle Scout has finished his project at Hall's Pond Sanctuary. He will report in front of Commission in the near future.

T. Brady stated that the back landfill has lost several trees in the wetland replication area, and will replace them with red maples.

T. Brady informed the Commission that Sargent Pond is doing well, and he is pleased with the results of the aerators.

T. Brady showed the Commission photos and a video (captured by a National Grid worker) of a bald eagle in Town.

T. Brady stated that the Brookline Reservoir is slowly being re-filled.

ADJOURN

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

Minutes prepared by K. Weatherseed