



**Waltham Conservation Commission
March 25, 2021
Meeting Agenda**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM.

Attendees: Chair Philip Moser, Vice Chair Bill Doyle, Bradley Baker, Michael Donovan, Matthew Deveau, Gerard Dufromont

Absent:

Development Prospectus:

- 235 Bear Hill Road

Phil Silverman from Vicente Sederburg LLP represented the applicant. Also present: Anthony Cardillo, CEO. Recreational marijuana dispensary project. Described site. No wetland issues known. Commission agreed and no additional issues raised. Motion to sign prospectus by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Deveau. **Motion approved.** Applicant agreed to receive sign-off by email under pandemic rule modifications.

Motion to take an agenda item out of order by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion approved.**

Correspondence

- Mokema Woods Fill Removal Project/Graverson Playground Compliance

Correspondence from Carolyn Cooney who was present for informal discussion. Would like to revise plan to improve drainage with an additional outlet. Will require some additional wetlands disruption. Will also need to remove some trees, Norway maples. Final configuration will offset previous flood storage loss. Commission approves of steps being taken. Asked to be informed as work proceeds. Ms. Cooney will return to the commission after work and plantings to request Certificate of Compliance for Graverson.

Informal Discussion:

- Resource area tree removal questions.

Approved 6-24-2021

Mr. Baker initiated discussion of Commission's authority to remove trees in jurisdiction, as well as what to do with the wood afterward. Concern of unknown effect on the ecosystem of leaving matter from invasive species behind. This was a general discussion, not for a specific request or project. Mr. Moser believes that stacking cordwood is specifically exempt from WPA restrictions. The Commission probably has no authority to set conditions unless as part of the NOI process. Removal of trees would be within jurisdiction. Clarified that the default is that if a tree falls within a river area it can be removed. Discussion about commission's lack of enforcement capability. Discussion about adding guidance on this issue to the commission's standard conditions and/or to the website.

Commission Business

- Approval of meeting minutes from 3-11-2021. Motion to approve by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion passed.**
- Update on filing fee projects. No update.
- Storer Conservation Land Encroachment. Issue is with the Law Department, no update.
- Storer Conservation Land Management Plan. No update for commission activity. There is a proposal from Land Stewardship to the commission to perform an invasive species study of the entire property. The request is for \$750 from the commission to complete the report of work previously done. Mr. Donovan moved to approve this expenditure, Mr. Doyle seconded. Discussion. The land stewardship project previously requested \$50,000 from the CPC for this study and follow-up invasive species removal work. Concern if work has been only a survey and mapping project or also includes a removal plan. This work is seen as moving toward a full master plan. Agreement that survey to date has been thorough. **Motion approved.**

Old Business

- Update on hiring process for new Commission office assistant. Position posted on 3-24-2021.

Committee Reports

- CPC. Next meeting: April 6, 2021.
- Trust Fund: Potential purchases of land, easements, or conservation restrictions using trust funds. No updates.

Site visit reports

- 491 Lexington Street. Observed by Mr. Donovan doing unapproved tree removal work inside 200' buffer. Responsibility for tree in dispute, as on property line. Tree was dead or nearly dead and presented a hazard. Property also has a building permit to replace rear deck (issued December 10, 2020). Full extent of work is not clear. Property is entirely within 200' buffer zone. Lack of ConCom notification of project seems to be an oversight by Building Department.

New Business

Approved 6-24-2021

- Mr. Dufromont raised the issue of whether the Commission needs to hold a new vote for its officers, as pandemic restrictions and exceptions have prevented many routine activities over the past year. Issue was discussed informally. Commissioners agreed that this should be addressed and will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion approved.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:46PM.