



**Waltham Conservation Commission
September 3, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Informal Discussion

- **AstraZeneca Vegetation Clearing:** Chris Wagoner from VHB represented and Paul Joyce from AstraZeneca represented the applicant. The groundskeeper and landscapers at this location went “above and beyond” clearing brush from the property and happened to remove vegetation from the wetlands on this property. There was approximately 5600 feet of wetland disturbance. Mr. Wagoner is seeking advice on next steps to begin to repair this damage.

The Commission would like to see something done rather than nothing. There was discussion about adding some native trees to the site. Mr. Dufromont will arrange for a site visit early next week to provide advice on plantings and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Wagoner will come up with a proposed planting plan and present to the Commission at a later date.

- **Outdoor Learning Opportunities at the new high school:** There’s a Waltham High School student that approached Mr. Baker to suggest that all the genius of trees that can grow in this climate be planted at the new high school. She also suggested the trees be tagged so the students can study and do research on these trees. Mr. Baker is proposing that the Conservation Commission would be responsible for the upkeep of these trees. The Commission has approached the architect on this project and has expressed interest and when they are at that point in the design phase, they will sit down with the Commission to discuss.

Public Hearing (continued from 8-13-2020)

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0767)

Applicant: Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals LP

Property Location: 35 Gatehouse Drive

Project Description: Construct additional parking along the existing fire access road and an open field.

The applicant has officially withdrawn their Notice of Intent application.

Approved 9-17-2020

Public Meeting (continued from 8-13-2020)

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Keolis Commuter Services

Property Location: MBTA Right-of-Way

Project Description: Renew wetland map(s) along the Right-of-Way in Waltham.

Mr. Doyle recused himself from this Public Meeting due to a conflict of interest.

Clary Coutu from Keolis Commuter Services and Matt Donovan from FDC Engineers represented the applicant. Mr. Donovan explained the process for treating vegetation along the MBTA rail lines. The applicant is asking the Commission to confirm that accuracy of the wetlands shown on their map.

Mr. Moser pointed out that the applicant submitted a Request for Determination form, which is typically used for an applicant to ask for permission for a specific project for the Commission to confirm that it does not require further regulation. Applicants commonly use an Abbreviated Notice of Resource Area Delineation (ANRAD) this purpose, but an RDA can also be used to confirm the accuracy of the wetland shown.

Motion made to provide paperwork to Keolis to confirm that the maps they submitted match the Waltham GIS maps and the wetlands are properly identified by Mr. Donovan. Seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0759)

Applicant: Mark Felt

Property Location: 85 Copeland Street

Mr. Ralph Bibbo from Bibbo Brothers and Associates represented the applicant to request a Certificate of Compliance. The plans were submitted to show the house was completed as proposed.

The Commission did not have any questions and did not require a site visit.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to issue a Certificate of Compliance, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0760)

Applicant: Raffaele Bibbo, III

Property Location: 239 Hardy Pond Road

Mr. Ralph Bibbo from Bibbo Brothers and Associates represented the applicant to request a Certificate of Compliance. The as-built plans and several pictures were submitted to show the house was completed as proposed.

Mr. Doyle requested that the silt sack in the catch basin out front remain in place until the grass has grown more substantially, but removed before winter time.

The Commission did not have any questions and did not require a site visit.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to issue a Certificate of Compliance, seconded by Mr. Donovan. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Matthew Burke

Property Location: 17 Warwick Avenue

Project Description: Addition of second story to existing single-family house.

Paul Finger from Paul Finger and Associates is representing the applicant, but is not ready to present yet. He asked if we could return to this Public Meeting later on in the meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Donovan to take an agenda item out of order, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Hearing

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0769)

Applicant: City of Waltham Recreation Department

Property Location: 125 AFT Mokema Avenue, 117 AFT Seminole Avenue, 233 BF Seminole Avenue

Project Description: Remove urban fill from the Mokema Woods Conservation Land to compensate for the lost flood storage at Graverson Playground.

Mr. Moser pointed out that we had an informal discussion on this topic at the last meeting, however, this a formal Notice of Intent filing and abutter notifications have been sent out so there may be people on the call who did not participate in the informal discussion so the presentation will start from the beginning.

Carolyn Cooney of Carolyn Cooney and Associates and Matt Hodge from Hodge Water Resources represented the applicant.

The purpose of this project is to compensate for flood storage lost at Graverson Playground by excavating fill from the City Conservation Land.

Ms. Cooney described the proposed project. The Commission members asked questions and expressed concerns to the contractor.

Mr. Moser opened the meeting to the public. Betty MacKenzie, a local resident, represented the Hardy Pond Associate with the Association's comments and special requests.

A site visit has been scheduled for Thursday, September 10 at 8:00 am.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to continue to the next meeting on September 17, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to put the 17 Warwick Avenue RDA back on the table, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Matthew Burke

Property Location: 17 Warwick Avenue

Project Description: Addition of second story to existing single-family house.

Paul Finger of Paul Finger and Associates represented the applicant, Matt Burke. The Request for Determination of Applicability is for the addition of a second story and front porch to an existing single-family house. Mr. Finger explained the project.

Each Commission member had the opportunity to ask questions and express concerns.

Mr. Doyle made a motion to issue a negative Determination of Applicability, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Public Hearing

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0770)

Applicant: City of Waltham

Property Location: 554 Lexington Street

Project Description: New High School project

Mr. Donovan recused himself due to a conflict of interest. Mr. Donovan is a member of the high school building committee.

Lorraine Finnegan, the project manager from SMMA (the architects and engineers for the high school project) and a large team of people represented the applicant. This team included the following members: Erin Prestileo, Civil Engineer from SMMA; Dan Clasby, Civil Engineer from SMMA; Megan Collins, Landscape Architect from SMMA; Lynn Stapleton, OPM for the City with Leftfield; Scott Goldkamp, Geotechnical Engineer with Haley & Aldrich; Dennis Lowry, Wetlands Scientist from AECOM; Mary Rimmer, a Wetlands Scientist from Rimmer Environmental Consulting; Rachel Whitermore, Project Manager at Consigli Construction; and Nathaniel Stevens, special counsel from McGregor & Legere, P.C.

Erin Prestileo presented the project and how it affects conservation land on the project site.

Each Commission member was able to ask questions and provide comments and feedback to the project team.

A discussion ensued about possible phosphorus issue at the project site.

Mr. Moser noted that multiple commission members have requested a peer review. The Commission understands that this will take some time, but believes it is the best course of action to enable it to reach an informed decision.

A site visit has been scheduled for Monday, September 14 at 8:00 am. Currently, the property is not open to the public and is being overseen by Consigli Construction. Members of the public are invited to participate, however, for COVID reasons, the attendance is limited to 50 people total. For those who are interested, please RSVP with Michelle Richard. All participants must fill out a form, wear a mask, and will have their temperatures checked.

Mr. Moser opened the public hearing to the public. Several abutters, concerned residents, and Wetlands specialists asked questions about the project.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to continue to the next meeting on September 17, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- **Approval of meeting minutes from 08-13-2020:** Motion made by Mr. Doyle to approve the minutes from the 08-13-2020 meeting, seconded by Mr. Baker. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

The remainder of the agenda has been tabled to the next meeting.

Motion made by Mr. Doyle to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Dufromont. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.