



## **Waltham Conservation Commission**

**May 25, 2023**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting took place via public Zoom call with participation information posted at City Hall, Government Center, and on the Commission's page of the City web site. Zoom information was circulated directly to all applicants and others on the public agenda.

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM.

**Attendees:** Chair Philip Moser, Vice Chair Bill Doyle, Gerard Dufromont, Michael Donovan, Bradley Baker, Louis Andrews, Alexander Sbordone.

**Absent:**

#### **Development Prospectus Sign Off**

- 460 Totten Pond Road. Attorney Jack Mula and Paul Finger present for applicant. Mr. Mula briefly summarized the project. Mr. Finger showed details on a site plan. A small amount of repaving / curb reconstruction is in jurisdiction. Mr. Finger noted they will likely file an RDA. The stabilization below the curb area was approved as part of an earlier project on the adjacent property in 2012. Since part of site has jurisdictional wetland, discussion as to whether this can be signed off as a development prospectus or if it requires an RDA/NOI in addition or instead. Clarified that only repaving is within wetland boundary; curb work is approximately 25'-50' outside. Based on the discussion and clarifications, Mr. Moser suggested that an RDA would not be needed, as the only remaining item (repaving) would be exempt activity. Mr. Doyle moved to allow the chair to sign off, to also specify on the special permit form that the work is not in jurisdiction and that the applicant will file appropriate paperwork (an RDA or explanatory letter regarding the exempt activity). Mr. Dufromont seconded. All present in favor. **Motion passed.**

#### **Public Meeting**

##### **Request for Determination of Applicability**

**Applicant:** Hobbs Brook Real Estate LLC.

**Property Location:** 590 Lincoln Street

**Project Description:** Construction of two French drains, two catch basins, and a trench drain at the secondary access driveway. Work is intended to mitigate a winter icing issue from stormwater runoff and snow melt which causes a public safety hazard. Work is within the 100-foot buffer zone.

Anthony Donato of Hancock Associates present for applicant. Mr. Donato presented plans and described the project. Discussion. While the commissioners recognized the need for the project and generally are comfortable with the solution, they had concerns that, if placed at an improper location or elevation, the French drains could lead to the complete draining of the adjacent wetland. The elevations at this location need to be precise and the hydrological connections have not been clarified. There may also be a culvert not shown on the plan. Modifications and alternatives were

discussed. Mr. Donato suggested that he make revisions with the applicant and return. Motion to continue by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion passed.**

### **Commission Business**

- Approval of meeting minutes from 5-11-2023. Motion to approve by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Andrews. All present in favor. **Motion passed.**

### **Correspondence**

- DCR Lakes District invasive management plan updates noted. Mr. Daly added new information: DCR has received DMF approval to apply treatment beginning 5/31 and will post public notices on 5/26.
- DEP correspondence on 171 Copeland Street (316-0816) noted.
- Piety Corner Club correspondence regarding removal of two additional trees. Discussion regarding a site visit to review work to date. Mr. Donovan will visit.
- Correspondence regarding City of Waltham project for Linden Street noted.
- 74 Rumford Ave Release Abatement Plan and culvert repair work noted.

### **Old Business**

- 98 Lakeview Terrace. Mr. Doyle reported that the applicant's attorney inquired into next steps for completing the filing. He offered them guidance on the requirements of the RCOC process. The commission anticipates an RCOC by the end of June. Mr. Moser noticed today that one section of fence has yet to be removed. Agreed that it is still a good idea to send an ongoing conditions reminder letter to the new owner and realtor.

### **Site Visit Reports**

Mr. Moser left the meeting as the first two items involve his neighbors. Mr. Doyle acted as chair.

- 64 Hiawatha Ave (Mr. Baker). 3 Red Maples were cut by owner who feared squirrels could enter the house and start a fire. Trees were too close for pruning to be effective. Mr. Baker told her to expect a letter regarding replacement trees. The commission office will draft the letter and circulate for approval and signatures.
- 34/44 Hiawatha Ave (Mr. Baker). [Tree is on 34 Hiawatha lot.] A huge oak tree (~5' DBH) was recently cut. Discussion. Recent photos from numerous sources (Google Maps, Nearmap, city GIS) show the tree healthy. The commission agreed to send a letter regarding removal.

Mr. Moser resumed as chair.

- Mokema Woods update (Mr. Baker). Mr. Moser updated the commission on planned tree removals (10AM 5/29). Discussion of site conditions, plans, and alternatives. Discussion of planned and already-planted replacements to prevent spread of invasives.

### **Committee Reports**

- **CPC:** No updates.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Doyle, seconded by Mr. Baker. All present in favor. **Motion passed.**

Conservation Commission meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

The annual public meeting of the Conservation Trust Fund followed (minutes recorded separately).