



**Waltham Conservation Commission
May 18, 2017
Meeting Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman Bill Doyle, Brad Baker, Mike Donovan, Gerard Dufromont, Tali Gill-Austern

Absent: Philip Moser

Public Meeting (Continued from 5-4-2017)
Request for Certificate of Compliance (DEP File # 316-0689)
Applicant: Robert Farrington/Windsor Village at Waltham Co.
Property Location: 976 Lexington Street

Continued until the June 8th meeting.

Public Meeting
Request for Determination of Applicability
Applicant: Ibrahim Hallaj and Sharon Peled
Property Location: 85 Crescent Street
Project Description: Replace wooden deck at the back of the house. Remove large dead tree.

Ibrahim Hallaj represented himself. He mentioned that he received approval from the commission over three years ago to have the deck behind his house removed and replaced and install a set of stairs. He had to refile since the determination expired. He would also like to remove a large dead pine tree near the water. Mr. Dufromont asked if the deck will be larger than what is currently there. Mr. Hallaj replied that it will extend five feet on either side, but it will not extend closer to the water. Mr. Dufromont asked if the tree is on the river. Mr. Hallaj stated that it is close (~25 feet away). Mr. Gill-Austern asked if it has fallen in the river or if it is still standing. It is still standing but all of the limbs are dead. Mr. Baker asked that they cut it down close to the ground but the stump stays. Mr. Gill-Austern asked if a tree company has been contacted. Mr. Hallaj stated that it has and the guys will climb up and chop off the limbs manually. Once they get to the top, they will secure it piece by piece. Mr. Gill-Austern asked what material will be used for the new deck. Mr. Hallaj replied that it will be wood. Mr. Doyle stated that there is a DCR scenic easement on the riverfront and the tree may fall within DCR's jurisdiction. It was decided that the commission will vote on the deck tonight and the removal of the tree will be handled separately. Mr. Doyle suggested Mr. Hallaj contact DCR re: the tree.

Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern to issue a negative Determination of Applicability for the removal of the old deck and replacement of a new deck, seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting
Request for Extension Permit (DEP File # 316-0578)
Applicant: Astra Zeneca Pharmaceuticals
Property Location: 35 Gatehouse Drive

Eric Kuhn, Solitude Lake Management, represented the applicant. They have been managing the pond for almost two decades. The last NOI that was filed for this project was in 2007 and through the extension acts it has been extended 3 - 4 times. This is an ongoing maintenance project, collecting stormwater and other runoff. Currently, they are managing invasive emergence around the pond such as purple loosestrife, common reed and knotweed. Other managed growth is algae and pond weed. They are asking for a three-year extension. There are no changes to the plan. There will be one treatment in early summer and another in later summer. Mr. Baker asked how they deal with Japanese knotweed. Mr. Kuhn stated that they use an herbicide called AquaPro. They spray the leaves and/or hand wipe it. Mr. Dufromont asked

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if they notify Cambridge Water Department about the treatments. Mr. Doyle replied that Cambridge Water Department is aware of it, but asked that Solitude forward a copy of their letter to CWD. Mr. Donovan asked if the commission has a copy of the management plan indicating the chemicals being used. Mr. Kuhn replied that the commission should but he will forward another copy to Julie for the file.

Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern to grant a three-year extension, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion passed.**

Public Meeting

Request for Determination of Applicability

Applicant: Timothy Braceland

Property Location: 85 Knollwood Drive

Project Description: Add outdoor patio, fireplace and pizza oven.

Mr. Braceland represented himself. He stated he wants to add a 25' x 25' patio coming off the existing back of the house. In one corner of the backyard they want to put a fireplace and adjacent to that, a pizza oven. Mr. Gill-Austern asked if Mr. Braceland will be cutting down any trees. He will not.

Mr. Donovan asked what the distance will be between the patio and the water. Mr. Braceland stated that he doesn't know the distance, but there is quite a bit of space plus there is DCR land. Mr. Donovan asked if Mr. Braceland will have to do much filling to level off the area. Mr. Braceland stated that he has to remove some dirt to lay the pervious pavers. The backyard is flat. Mr. Donovan asked if he will be running a gas line for the pizza oven. Mr. Braceland replied that it will be a wood fire. It was mentioned that the patio plan was approved by the commission a few years ago when Mr. Braceland filed a Notice of Intent to build his house. A Certificate of Compliance for the house (minus the patio) had been issued previously. Mr. Doyle stated that the approved plan should be used for the patio, which includes drainage.

Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern to issue a negative Determination of Applicability with the following condition: Picture evidence to be provided to the commission showing that the drain line connecting to the existing system is installed. Motion seconded by Mr. Donovan. **Motion passed.**

Public Hearing

Notice of Intent (DEP File # 316-0727)

Applicant: John & Theresa Busconi

Property Location: 40 Sanderson Road

Project Description: Construction of a garage addition with a room above and a new driveway with drainage.

Bob Bibbo, Bibbo Brothers and Associates, represented the applicants. The property is located within riverfront of the Chester Brook. The applicants want to remove the existing driveway and add a two-car garage. They would add a new driveway, sump, drywell and a grate to catch all the runoff so it doesn't flow to the street. No trees will be removed. Mr. Donovan is very familiar with the property. He noted that from past experience, he would agree with what they are projecting during high rainfall periods.

Mr. Doyle opened up questions from the public. There were none.

Motion made by Mr. Dufromont to close the public hearing, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion passed.**

Motion made by Mr. Gill-Austern to issue a positive Order of Conditions with the commission's standard Order of Conditions, seconded by Mr. Baker. **Motion passed.**

Commission Business

- Motion made by Mr. Dufromont to approve the minutes from 5-4-2017, seconded from Mr. Gill-Austern. **Motion passed.**
- **Order of Conditions Revision:** Continued until the next meeting.
- **Review of Project Closeouts:** Continued until the next meeting.

Correspondence

- No Correspondence

Old Business

Mr. Doyle

- No updates

Mr. Baker

- **Paine Estate Wisteria:** Mr. Baker noted that yesterday he took part in the next stage of cutting the wisteria at the Paine Estate. He shared before and after pictures with the commission. He did 2,000 lopper cuts, which took one hour. If he continues every month, the plants will continue to get weaker. He also feels it's the best way to get rid of the wisteria and other plants instead of spraying them with Roundup.
- **Paine Estate trees:** Mr. Doyle stated that the commission received information from Joe Pedulla in Purchasing re: what it would take to put together an RFP. Mr. Doyle asked if Mr. Baker could put together an outline. It would then be presented to Mr. Pedulla to obtain 3 – 4 quotes on what it would take to pull together a Forestry Master Plan, then CPC would be approached for funding.

Mr. Dufromont

- **Trail and Stonehurst Interpretive brochure:** Mr. Dufromont is being pushed by the mayor to get it done. The sign has basically been designed but they need to get a count of how many signs are needed on the trails. He is hoping to talk with the Waltham Land Trust tomorrow to see where they are.

Mr. Gill-Austern

- No updates

Mr. Donovan

- No updates

Committee Reports

- **CPC:** No updates
- **Trust Fund:** Discussed under New Business.

Site visit reports

New Business

- Mr. Dufromont went to a ribbon cutting for the library at Stonehurst. He encountered several people walking dogs unleashed. He spoke with four people and asked them to keep their dogs on leashes since there would be many children on the grounds for the ribbon cutting. He encountered one angry man who became belligerent. Mr. Dufromont pointed out that where the man was parked there is a sign that states to keep dogs on leashes. The person stormed off in his car. Mr. Dufromont stated that he contacted the police who informed him that they will no longer respond to these complaints or write up a violation. The Conservation Commission will need to issue the violation. The police officer suggested having the Animal Control officer come to a Conservation meeting to bring the members up-to-date on what the current rules are for walking dogs at the Paine Estate and what she can and cannot do. Mr. Doyle suggested asking for an explanation of what the new policy is. If the current signs on the property are incorrect, it's the commission's responsibility to get the signs updated. Mr. Dufromont will ask the Animal Control officer to send the policy to the commission.
- Mr. Dufromont is supposed to be giving a Trust Fund presentation this evening. He asked for an extension until the next meeting on June 8th. The commission has an expendable account and a non-expendable account. Mr. Dufromont wants to get a broader statement from the Clerk's Office on what the commission can and cannot do with the money.

Motion made by Mr. Dufromont to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Gill-Austern. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.