



Acton Conservation Commission

Meeting Minutes

April 3rd, 2024

7:15 PM

Hybrid Meeting (Room 204 & Zoom)

Present: Terry Maitland (Chair), Jim Colman (Vice-Chair), Peter Hocknell, Kate Warwick, Amy Green (remote)

Absent: Jillian Peters, Zywia Chadzynska

7:15 The Chair, Terry Maitland, opened the meeting and read virtual meeting guidelines. The chair stated that the hearings for 123 Quarry Road and 9 West Road had been continued to the April 24th meeting.

Regular Business

7:15 **Request for Determination: 12 Phalen Street**

The applicant described the proposed project to add a 12x18 ft deck on the property. Terry and Peter stated that they had attended a site walk to look at the proposed project. Amy pointed out that the plan doesn't accurately show the wetlands on the east side of the property. The Commission had a discussion about whether the proposed deck would be considered a like structure to the existing house and three season porch; they ultimately decided it would not be. Jim Colman suggested that the applicant decrease the size of the deck to under 200 square feet; the applicant agreed to do so.

Terra from Mass Ave asked the Commission to explain their position in assisting the applicant come up with a passable project. Members of the Commission explained that it is in part, the responsibility of the Commission to help applicant's understand the Bylaw and guidance.

The Chair closed the hearing.

Decision

Jim Colman moved to issue a negative 3 determination with two special conditions that the deck must be less than 200 square feet and an updated plan must be submitted to the Commission. Peter Hocknell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

7:53 **Request for Determination of Applicability: 2 Taylor Road**

Representing the Friends of the Acton Arboretum was Bettina Abe. Bettina explained the scope of the project to fix a piece of the China trail garden by removing the stone dust and replacing with pavers. This would be done to prevent further flooding of the trail.



The Commission discussed conditioning this to require stockpiling to be surrounded with erosion controls; Bettina agreed.

The Chair closed the hearing.

Decision

Kate Warwick moved to issue a negative 3 determination with one special condition that any overnight stockpiling must be surrounded with erosion controls. Peter Hocknell seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8:09 **Notice of Intent:** 68 Parker Street (continued)

Representing the applicant was Daren Grady. Daren explained that at the last meeting the Commission requested that the dumpsters inside the 50 foot setback be addressed; he showed the plan where the dumpsters had been relocated and put in an enclosure to prevent trash from escaping.

The chair closed the hearing.

Decision:

Peter Hocknell moved to issue a standard order of conditions. Kate Warwick seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8:18 **Notice of Intent:** Main Street at Hayward Road

Representing the Town of Acton was QinRui Pang. Qin explained that she met with some of the Commissioners on site to show the constraints that the project was up against. Qin summarized a plan that was discussed in the field to plant new native trees along musket drive and to install educational signage about vernal pools somewhere in town; two proposed locations were the Arboretum and/or Great Hill Conservation land.

Terra from Mass Ave commented urging the Commission not to approve the project until it is funded; Jim pointed out that approval of the project is obsolete if the project is not funded.

The project was not ready to be voted on at this meeting so the Chair announced that the hearing would be continued to April 24th.

8:33 The Chair excused himself temporarily; Jim Colman assumed the duties of the Chair.

Notice of Intent: 5 High Street (continued)



Representing the applicant was Nicole Ferrara of LEC Environmental. Nicole summarized the project and pointed out that a second site walk occurred the previous

week. Nicole explained that a revised site plan shows the driveway shifted away from the wetlands and includes an updated planting plan. The planting plan includes 36 native trees and 15 native shrubs.

8:41 Terry Maitland assumed responsibilities of the Chair.

The Chair closed the hearing.

Decision

Jim Colman moved to issue an order of conditions with special conditions that mowing may occur once a year as long as brush in the resource area is hand cut and wetland flags remain in place and that trees/shrubs be monitored for a period of two years to ensure 75% survival. Peter seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8:45 **Discussion: 1012 Main Street**

Paul Kirchner of Stamsky and McNary explained a potential project and was asking for the Commission's opinion on its feasibility. The Commission explained that a specific opinion could not be offered without a full project proposal and more information.

Discussion: 225 Newtown Road

Amy summarized the issues that have been occurring with the stormwater basin at 225 Newtown road including wash out and damage to the nearby wetland. Amy stated that the owner had done some work to mitigate this problem and rake out some of the sediment out of the wetland. Amy explained that sediment is still washing into the wetland.

The Commission discussed issuing an enforcement order to resolve the issue. Peter Hocknell made a motion to issue an enforcement order to have the owner come before the Commission on April 24th to discuss solutions to the problem. Jim seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Consent Items

Meeting Minutes of March 20th 2024

Peter moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 20th, Jim seconded and the motion passed unanimously.



9:39 Meeting adjourned