

MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LAND USE MEETING ROOM
May 7, 2018

OPENING: The regular scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission opened at 7:00 p.m. Attendance is as follows:

Christopher Pratt, Chairman	Present
Seth Kellogg, Vice Chairman	Absent
Frank Soleimani, Commissioner	Present
Mehmet Mizanoglu Commissioner	Present
Dave MacWilliams Commissioner	Present
Brian Drenen Commissioner	Absent
Brian Pranka Commissioner	Present
Dennis Clark, Coordinator	Present

7:00 Christopher Pratt, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

MINUTES

Commissioner Mizanoglu made a motion to accept the minutes of 04/02/18. Commissioner MacWilliams seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE

Mr. Geno Whitehead and Ms. Patricia Sherman attended the meeting to discuss a potential project at 32 Beach Road. There is a very steep slope to the lake which is covered by a variety of brush including bitter sweet, pine trees and sumac. The dwelling is approximately 70 feet from the lake shore. Mr. Whitehead stated that he intended to terrace the slope, redirect water runoff from the dwelling, and remove the brush excluding the pine trees. The members of the Conservation Commission stated that they had no problem with the conceptual proposal but advised Mr. Whitehead to file for a Notice of Intent prior to any work being done. Mr. Whitehead and Mrs. Sherman requested that they be allowed to clear the slope of the existing brush in order to have the property surveyed before submitting the NOI. They assured that no digging or roots would be disturbed during the clearing process, and none of the pine trees would be removed. The Commissioners agreed to letting them clear the slope of brush without disturbing the roots or earth prior to the submittal of a Notice of Intent.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mr. Randy Brown, DPW Director

7:14 **NOI Shurtleff Brook Bridge Replacement** Chairman Pratt opened the continuation of the Public Hearing. Coordinator Clark stated that the DEP had issued a file number and required the Commission not to issue an Order of Conditions until the project was approved by the NHESP. A letter

was read from National Heritage requiring that a turtle protective plan will need to be in place before the project starts. Mr. Brown stated that the work will be completed in 9 to 10 days, and the road will be closed for that period of time. Unfortunately, the bridge was constructed in 1914 and is not salvageable. Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Commissioner Pranka seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously. Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to accept the project as presented with an additional condition relative to the NHESP letter. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rob Levesque, R. Levesque & Associates

7:20 **RDA Crestview Map 27 Parcel 3, 4, 5** Chairman Pratt opened the continuation of the Public Hearing. Mr. Levesque presented an amended delineation map of the west side of the existing golf course next to Wynnfield Condominiums. Two new wetland locations were added to the delineation after the areas were observed with new vegetation. The isolated pond shown on the plan now has been deemed a vernal pool, which R. Levesque agreed to have the vernal pool registered with the NHESP. The remaining land will be dedicated to open space with the exception of possibly 1 to 3 dwellings. Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion for a positive determination (2a) for the wetland delineation and a positive determination (5) subject to review and approval by the Southwick Conservation Commission. Commissioner Pranka seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Rob Levesque, R. Levesque & Associates

Mr. Paul Whalley, potential property owner

7:33 **NOI 16 Sheep Pasture Road** Chairman Pratt opened the hearing by reading the legal notice as posted in the Westfield News. Mr. Levesque presented a plan showing a single family dwelling and associated site plan. The parcel is 6.21 acres with bordering vegetated wetlands on the north side including a culvert under Sheep Pasture Road. A portion of the driveway will be approximately 35 feet from the resource area. A valid percolation test has been performed for the septic system, and no seasonal high ground water is evident. The potential owners would eventually like to create a walking path to Great Brook at the rear of the property. Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to close the public hearing. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to accept the NOI as presented requiring a \$10,000.00 bond be posted. Commissioner Pranka seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brian Callaghan, Property owner representative

7:45 **RDA 156 Berkshire Avenue** Commissioner Pratt opened the hearing by reading the legal notice as posted in the Westfield News. Mr. Callaghan, representing the property owner Mr. Louis Maggio, explained the project as the installation of a pressure treated stairway, a portion of which is within the 100 foot buffer zone. The project is essentially covering the existing concrete stairs and the rusted metal railings. The concrete stairs will remain under the new stairway, and the new stairs will be supported by ~~concrete~~ tubes. Once the stairway is completed, the area will be landscaped. The Commissioners will require a silt fence be installed so no debris will enter the lake during construction. Commissioner Pranka made a motion to find the project negative. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously

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DISCUSSION/REVIEW

Open Space and Recreation Planning Committee Coordinator Clark inquired if any of the Conservation Commission members were interested in joining the Committee. The Commissioners questioned what days and times the meetings will take place. Coordinator Clark will inquire about the meetings and report back to the Commissioners.

Revised Extension Order of Conditions DEP# 292-0299 The Conservation Commissioners signed the corrected Order of Conditions Extension as previously approved.

5 Kline Road – Request for Certificate of Compliance Coordinator Clark presented photographs of the property showing one location that has not been seeded but does have a lot of rocky soil. All other ground cover has been stabilized. Commissioner Pranka made a motion to sign the Certificate of Compliance as the property complied with the Order of Conditions. Commissioner MacWilliams seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.

RT 57 Culvert Enforcement Order DEP# 292-297 Coordinator Clark reported that a new silt fence was installed along with blankets and seeded. The existing culvert will be modified along with removing some rip rap, then a slip liner reinstalled at a lower level pending approval of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Community Garden An article appeared on the cover of The Southwick News about the garden. As of this meeting, there are 13 plots reserved and 11 remaining. The plot sizes are bigger with an increase in separation between plots.

Land Grant Extension Coordinator Clark related that the Select Board and State did sign an agreement for an extension of the \$400,000.00 grant.

Sterrett Drive Nature Walk Commissioners MacWilliams and Soleimani conducted a site visit at the location and noted that some of the branches may have been cut a little too high. Coordinator Clark explained that if horse riders used the easement the branches could hinder their safe passage. The Commissioners presented a letter to Mr. Berry stating the intent to trim the remaining branch stubs flush with the trees and paint them with a sealer, but he refused to sign the document. The trail has limited use, mostly for homeowners on Sterrett Drive. Mrs. Maureen Berry stated that she appreciated the Commissioners coming for a site visit but complained with the way the trees were trimmed indicating a reduction in privacy, accusing Coordinator Clark of cutting their trees down.

Enforcement Order 767 & 771 College Highway Commissioner Clark stated that the representatives for the property will come to the next meeting with plans for filling in the ditch that was dug in violation.


Enforcement Order 107 South Loomis Street Coordinator Clark stated that most of the conditions of the Enforcement Order were completed with the exception of the installation of the monuments. The final inspection will be conducted on June 18th.

Personal Watercraft Bylaw The Annual Town Meeting will include ballot questions including marijuana sales and only allowing personal watercraft (jet skis) to go at headway speed on North Pond. Mr. Paul Murphy stated that even if a bylaw is created, there is always limited enforcement on the lakes. There has been a debate over the State law that prohibits the use of personal watercraft on a

body of water that is less than 75 acres. Mr. Murphy stated that there may be an amendment proposed to eliminate personal watercraft on North Pond. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on May 15th.

Commissioner MacWilliams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. None opposed, the motion passed unanimously.


Respectfully submitted,


Jean Nilsson, Secretary
cc:


Select Board
Town Clerk

Christopher Pratt, Chairman

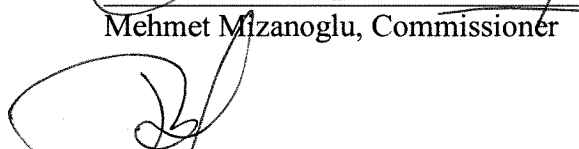
Seth Kellogg, Vice Chairman



Dave MacWilliams, Commissioner

Frank Soleimani, Commissioner


Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner


Brian Drenen, Commissioner


Brian Pranka, Commissioner



Date