

MINUTES  
CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
HYBRID PARTICIPATION  
May 1, 2023

OPENING: The regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission opened at 7:00 PM via hybrid. Chairman MacWilliams announced the names, time and date of the meeting, and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

**ATTENDANCE**

David MacWilliams, Chairman	Present
Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman	Present
Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner	Present
Brian Drenen, Commissioner	Absent
Jerry Patria, Commissioner	Present
Kevin Solek, Commissioner	Present
Andrew Reardon, Commissioner	Present

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** There were no public comments.

**MINUTES**

Commissioner Mehmet made a motion to accept the minutes as amended of April 3, 2023. Vice Chairman Cheever seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

David MacWilliams	yes	Norm Cheever	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Kevin Solek	yes		

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**NOI 662A College Highway DEP# 292-0412** Chairman MacWilliams opened the Public Hearing by reading the legal ad as posted in The Reminder Publications on April 21, 2023. Commissioner Reardon recused himself for the Public Hearing. The applicant issued an email request for a continuation. Vice Chairman Cheever made a motion for a continuance until the next scheduled meeting. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as unanimous in favor.

David MacWilliams	yes	Norm Cheever	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Kevin Solek	yes		

**NEW BUSINESS**

**141 Congamond Road DEP # 292-0400 – Request for an amendment of the Order of**

**Conditions** The applicant requested an amendment of the Order of Conditions, then requested that the amendment request be dismissed without prejudice.

**141 Congamond Road – Appeal for Chapter 91 License** The Lake Management Committee (LMC) requested an appeal of the Chapter 91 license from DEP and April 26, 2023. The LMC will meet again on May 5th. Vice Chairman Cheever will update the Conservation Commission on the status of the appeal.

Ms. Sue Brzoska, Owner

**12 Hillside Road – Restoration on APR Property** Ms. Brzoska, 1 Logie Lane, attended the meeting to present a plan for erosion control on MDAR property. MDAR reviews properties to ensure they are maintained in accordance with the provisions of land preservation. The request was to redirect a portion of Tuttle Brook to its original formation. As of this meeting, Ms. Brzoska had no immediate plans for the restoration. Sabrina Pooler, Conservation Coordinator, will do further research to determine if the activity is exempt from conservation regulations as it is an active farm.

Ms. Carol Ann Gauthier, President Congamond Heights Association

Steve Salvini, Salvini & Associate

**10/12 Island Pond – Dock and Shoreline** Ms. Gauthier attended the meeting to relate information on encroachment from the neighboring property. A survey was conducted by Mr. Steve Salvini showing the neighbors dock, and fence on encroaching on land owned by the association. A sea wall was also installed on the property to the water's edge. There is no record of the owner requesting that work be allowed within conservation jurisdiction (100 feet of the lake). The location of the neighboring dock causes a safety hazard between their vessel and the vessels of the association. A request was made to have LMC comment on the rotation of the dock to the south. Ms. Gauthier wants to be a good neighbor and is requesting that the neighboring dock be moved to the south a sufficient distance to allow for safe access by all vessels. There is also a tree down at the location that has been filling with silt restricting access to the canal. Chairman MacWilliams will issue a letter to the property owner requesting that the issue be resolved in an amicable manner on the dock reorientation. In the event there is no action taken, Chairman MacWilliams will consult with the Harbor Master for an opinion, and/or issue an Enforcement Order.

**11 North Pond DEP # 292-0382 Request for alteration** Ms. Philo and Mathew Detka, contractor, attended the meeting to discuss a minor revision of the Order of Conditions which called for a row planting of arborvitaes. To create a more natural vista, Ms. Philo suggested that the arborvitaes be interplanted with blue bonnet lilac, rhododendrons and/or azalea dependent on what may currently be available at local nurseries. The plantings will be reduced from 32 to 25 and be at a distance of approximately 4 feet to allow for growth. Commissioner Solek made a motion to allow for the amendment of the Order of Conditions with the stipulation that special attention be considered for invasive species. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

David MacWilliams    yes

Norm Cheever    yes

Mehmet Mizanoglu    yes

Jerry Patria    yes

Kevin Solek    yes

Andy Reardon    yes

**13 North Pond DEP# 292-0363 Erosion Control Monitor** Mr. Ryan Nelson, R. Levesque & Associates requested to be nominated as Erosion Control Monitor. Chairman MacWilliams made a motion to approve the nomination. Commissioner Mazonaglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

David MacWilliams    yes  
Mehmet Mizanoglu    yes  
Kevin Solek    yes

Norm Cheever    yes  
Jerry Patria    yes  
Andrew Reardon    yes

Steve Salvini, Salvini & Associates  
Mr. Jesse Saltmarsh, Owner

**Noble Steed Culvert erosion control mitigation** Mr. Saltmarsh stated that the implementation has begun with the installation of straw bails in the east and west portion with waddles on order. The banks will be stabilized with grass plantings that will be mowed for 2 years then be allowed to return to a natural vegetated state. Recent heavy rain has overwhelmed the area and restricted advancement around the culvert with the inclusion of crushed stone. Stabilization will also occur when the roadway is paved and curbing installed.

**44 Tannery Road - Forest Cutting Plan** The plan has already been submitted to DEP and approved.

**188 Berkshire Ave – Emergency Certification** Sabrina Pooler, Conservation Coordinator, issued an Emergency Certification for the property. Randy Brown, Tree Warden, conducted a site visit and confirmed that the Emergency Certification was warranted.

Burt Hansen, Chairman Agricultural Committee

**Sofinowski Trail** Mr. Hansen attended the meeting to propose a new walking trail from the Community Garden to a pond at the rear of the property - approxixmetly 75 feet. The trail will be brush hogged to about two passes of a brush hog to eradicate the multi floral rose and open up a site vista to the pond. The trail could also allow gardeners to access the pond water for their gardens in the event of a drought. There will be a maintenance plan for a few years, then the trail will be allowed to return to a forested litter path. Mr. Hansen said that a member of the Agricultural Commission would volunteer to do the brush hogging. Commissioner Solek made a motion to allow the trail to be created and maintained in accordance with the presentation by Mr. Hansen. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

David MacWilliams    yes  
Mehmet Mizanoglu    yes  
Kevin Solek    yes

Norm Cheever    yes  
Jerry Patria    yes  
Andrew Reardon    yes

Burt Hansen, Chairman Agricultural Committee

**Open Farm Day** Mr. Hansen related plans of the Open Farm Day to be held on August 20th. Currently there are 10 farms that will participate with attendees using a "passport" document that will be submitted for a prize at the end of the event. The participants

will have access to farms that will have presentations relative to their production and/or retail sales. This is the first of what Mr. Hansen hopes to be many years of participation for Southwick farmers. Any of the Conservation Commissioners are welcome to volunteer.

**Citizens Restoring Congamond** The Conservation Commission received a notification for membership to Citizens Restoring Congamond. The organization is volunteer's that help with restoration and preservation of Lake Congamond. Commissioner Patria made a motion to issue a payment of \$100.00 donation. Commissioner Mazonaglu seconded the motion. Mr. Doug Moglin, Selectman, stated that the Select Board are member of organizations and that it would be acceptable if the Conservation Commission became members. Commissioner Patria changed his motion from a donation to a membership. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

David MacWilliams    yes

Norm Cheever    yes

Mehmet Mizanoglu    yes

Jerry Patria    yes

Kevin Solek    yes

Andrew Reardon    yes

**Vernal pool walk** Sabrina Pooler, Conservation Coordinator, related information of an event held at North Pond by Fish & Wildlife. The approximate 25 participants were able to observe a vernal pool and several native species.

**A Walk in the Woods** Sabrina Pooler, Conservation Coordinator, related information for an event at the Sofinowski Land Preserve on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 4:30. This is a public event that will address forest health management.

**Migratory Beekeeping** Sabrina Pooler, Conservation Coordinator, related information of a public event on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30. Billy C will make a presentation on beekeeping to be held in the auditorium at Town Hall.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**200A Hillside Road – Request for Certificate of Compliance** Mr. Jesse Saltmarsh, owner, requested a continuation until the next scheduled meeting.

**221 Mort Vining Road – Possible Land Acquisition** Sabrina Pooler, Conservation Coordinator, related that there was no quorum at the last CPC meeting to discuss the opportunity of a potential purchase. In the event the land is purchased for conservation, the Commission will need to determine what type of restrictions will be imposed such as if hunting will be allowed.

**MAIL - Post 338** An invitation was issued to participate in their parade.

**Wreaths Across America** A notice was posted to participate in the event.

**North Pond Parking Area** Mr. Saltmarsh renovated the parking area in lieu of paying a fine. Drainage pipes along the roadway were replaced, but silt is still entering the pipe with the potential to restrict the drainage.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:  
Select Board  
Town Clerk

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Dave MacWilliams, Chairman

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Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman

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Jerry Patria, Commissioner

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Brian Drenen, Commissioner

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Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

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Kevin Solek, Commissioner

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Andy Reardon, Commissioner

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Date