

MINUTES
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
HYBRID PARTICIPATION
March 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE

Christopher Pratt, Chairman	Present
Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman	Present
Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner	Present
Jerry Patria, Commissioner	Present
Kevin Solek, Commissioner	Present
Andrew Reardon, Commissioner	Present
Dennis Clark, Commissioner	Present

Chairman Pratt opened the meeting at 7:00 PM by announcing the date, time and members in attendance.

MINUTES

Commissioner Patria made a motion to accept the minutes of 3/4/24. Chairman Pratt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt	yes	Norm Cheever	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Kevin Solek	yes	Andy Reardon	yes
Dennis Clark	yes		

Public Comment: Angela Samon, 10 Cedar Street asked for information about the Open Space Sub Committee. Chairman Pratt said that the first step is for the Conservation Commission to prepare a presentation to the Select Board for approval.

Partial Request for Certificate of Compliance DEP# 292-0369 Mr. Aaron Dziengelski, Crestview Construction, requested a partial Certificate of Compliance on lot # 17. Coordinator Pooler stated that there is a drain on the subdivision that is not being maintained along with other issues that have not been corrected. Commissioner Clark made a motion to table the request until the site has been stabilized and all the previous issues have been resolved. A site visit will be scheduled.

Mr. Jeff Smith, Salvini & Associates

46 Mort Vining Road Coordinator Pooler received a complaint from a dwelling who's back yard was being flooded by water from a future access way into the subdivision. The path of the water is from one wetland to another. Most of the flow is just water with a minimal amount of silt. Mr. Smith noted that it is currently a very wet season and once the rain diminishes and the access roadway is complete, the backyard lawn of the dwelling will return to normal growth. The property owner did request if he

could extend his backyard beyond the buffer zone to accommodate for the condition and was advised that a Request for Determination would need to be filed with the Conservation Commission for review.

LPP Program Vice Chairman Cheever made note that he was appointed liaison for the Lake Management Committee to the Town of Suffield. The position would include future planning and allow for an open discussion with the First Selectman on lake related issues. Vice Chairman Cheever will also create a presentation that covers what the position will be concerned with. The members of the Commission were in agreement and made note that Vice Chairman Cheever was doing a great job to help protect the lakes and ensure compliance.

Ms. Nancy Drury, Owner
Chief Landis, Harbormaster
Diane Gale, Select Board Member

530 Griffin Road A several page document was included in an agenda addendum just hours before the meeting. Commissioner Clark stated that there was insufficient time to review the material and that the members could not make a decision on any request until they have a chance to review the material presented. The Vice Chairman also noted provisions of the Open Meeting Law that indicated the agenda was not posed in accordance with a “reasonably anticipated” issue. The issue was placed on the agenda at the last minute because Selectman Gale would not be able to attend the next meeting on March 18th. Vice Chairman Cheever made a motion to allow for information related to Ms. Drury’s dock and vessel issue but would not take any action at this meeting. Commissioner Solek seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt	yes	Norm Cheever	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Kevin Solek	yes	Andy Reardon	yes
Dennis Clark	yes		

Ms. Drury stated that she had been in compliance with her docks but purchased a new dock which would need to be closer to the neighbor's property which is in the same location as the previous season.

Ms. Gale stated that the current issue would have nothing to do with previous applications.

Chief Landis proposed a solution which could satisfy the abutters on both sides of Ms. Drury’s property. The Conservation Commission members will schedule a site visit for further evaluation.

Social Media Assistant Caron was granted permission from the Select Board to compose posts for Facebook relative to the Conservation Commission. All posts will first be reviewed and approved by the members for content. Commissioner Clark made a motion to have Assistant Caron proceed with the project. Commissioner Solek seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt	yes	Norm Cheever	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Kevin Solek	yes	Andy Reardon	yes
Dennis Clark	yes		

Suffield LPP Liaison Vice Chairman Cheever advised the Commission that he was appointed liaison by the Lake Management Committee to the Town of Suffield. The Commissioners agreed that Vice Chairman Cheever would be a great ambassador to also represent the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Jeff Smith, Salvini & Associates
Mr. Saltmarsh, Owner

Noble Steed DEP 292-0280 Mr. Smith requested an extension of the Order of Conditions for the subdivision. Mr. Saltmarsh stated that he has attempted to get ahead of the situation and wants to work with the Conservation Commission. There has been a timeline established and Mr. Stinson, DEP, made a note on what improvements need to happen. Mr. Smith will flag the up and down streams of the wetland and the resource area. The Commissioners also requested a change of the bond amount to \$30,000.00. There is a covenant on the subdivision for at least one lot that is only good for 26 years. The covenant does mention a wetland restriction. The open space portion of the subdivision is for perpetuity. There is a deed restriction on the property. The Conservation Restriction is being reviewed by Town Counsel at present, thus the Conservation Commission is not prepared to sign any documents as of this meeting. The crossing would not be large enough to involve the Federal Army Corps of Engineers and is outside of the deed restriction. The Commissioners will conduct a site visit.

Sofinowski Stargazing There was no update as of this meeting.

Granville Gorge Kiosk Roof No update as of this meeting. Coordinator Pooler is still awaiting information from former Commissioner Drenen.

North Pond Recyclables Update There is no update as of this meeting.

Docks Not Removed Certified letters were issued to the owner(s) of the docks that remained in the water after "ice out", December 1st. One of the recipients replied with an apology and did fully remove the dock. There has been no further reply from 51 Lakemont Street since the email stating that the dock will not be removed. A fine was issued by certified mail in accordance with the vote from the previous meeting. Chairman Pratt did make note of free-floating docks in the lake, one of which is on his shoreline.

107 S Loomis Street No update as of this meeting.

Mort Vining DEP 292-0409 The Conservation Commissioners will schedule a site visit as some of the area has been disturbed after a clear cut and needed to be re-flagged.

31 Sam West Road There has been no updated, however Coordinator Pooler will contact Mr. Nelson of R. Levesque & Associates for any current information.

13 Berkshire Avenue No update. However, the issue will be before the Annual Town Meeting for financial approval. The Commissioners did have a discussion about the cost for the attorney fees to transfer the property to the Town of Southwick.

157 Feeding Hills Road Creps Tea House Vice Chairman Cheever made note that the restaurant advertised outside cooking which would include a ramp from the building to the gazebos which would be within the 200 foot riverfront. A plan for compensatory storage may be required. The project will need to go before the Planning Board for approval prior to submitting a plan to the Conservation Commission. Coordinator Pooler also made note that there are poles installed for grape vines which are not on any plan. The actual ground service disruption is negligible, but Coordinator Pooler was concerned with the potential use of fertilizers. Coordinator Pooler also made note of a wood pile, some of which floated down the brook during a heavy rain, and asked the owner to move it further away from the water.

Hats Commissioner Clark made a motion to use Conservation Commission funds for the purchase of hats. Commissioner Mizanoglu seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt	yes	Norm Cheever	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Kevin Solek	yes	Andy Reardon	yes
Dennis Clark	yes		

Commissioner Solek made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:01 p.m., and go into Executive Session Pursuant to M.G.L. Chap. c. 30A, Exception#4 and not to reconvene into Open Session. Commissioner Patria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Chris Pratt	yes	Norm Cheever	yes
Mehmet Mizanoglu	yes	Jerry Patria	yes
Kevin Solek	yes	Andy Reardon	yes
Dennis Clark	yes		

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Nilsson, Secretary

cc:
Select Board
Town Clerk

Christopher Pratt, Chairman

Norman Cheever, Vice Chairman

Mehmet Mizanoglu, Commissioner

Jerry Patria, Commissioner

Kevin Solek, Commissioner

Andy Reardon, Commissioner

Dennis Clark, Commissioner

Date