



TOWN OF GROTON
Conservation Commission
173 Main Street
Groton, MA 01450
(978) 448-1106
Fax: 978-448-1113
ngualco@townofgroton.org



Groton Conservation Commission
Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.

Broadcast on Zoom and The Groton Channel
Pursuant to Governor's Executive Order
Concerning the Open Meeting Law and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Present: Peter Morrison, Marshall Giguere Bruce Easom, Eileen McHugh, Laurence J. Hurley, Olin Lathrop

Members absent: John Smigelski

Others present: Nikolis Gualco, Conservation Administrator

6:33 PM Vice-Chairman Hurley called the meeting to order.

1. Administrative Business*

1.1. Issue Order of Conditions, 244 Nashua Road, MassDEP#169-1202

The Commission reviewed drafted special conditions for MassDEP#169-1202.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was:

VOTED to issue an Order of Conditions for 244 Nashua Road, MassDEP#169-1202 under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR 10.00).

The motion passed by a roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley); ABSTAIN (M. Giguere).

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by B. Easom, it was:

VOTED to issue an Order of Conditions for 244 Nashua Road, MassDEP#169-1202 under the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 215).

The motion passed by a roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley); ABSTAIN (M. Giguere).

1.2. Issue Order of Conditions, 128 Martins Pond Road, MassDEP#169-1201

The Commission reviewed drafted special conditions for MassDEP#169-1201. They decided that conservation markers should be spaced every 75 feet.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by E. McHugh, it was:
VOTED to issue an Order of Conditions for 128 Martins Pond Road, MassDEP#169-1201 under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR 10.00).

The motion passed by a roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley, M. Giguere)

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by M. Giguere, it was:
VOTED to issue an Order of Conditions for 128 Martins Pond Road, MassDEP#169-1201 under the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 215).

The motion passed by a roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley, M. Giguere).

1.3. Issue Order of Conditions, 227 Boston Road, MassDEP#169-1199.

The Commission reviewed drafted specials conditions for MassDEP#169-1199. They agreed to strike condition #13 under the Bylaw.

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by E. McHugh, it was:
VOTED to issue an Order of Conditions for 227 Boston Road, MassDEP#169-1199 under the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act (310 CMR 10.00).

The motion passed by a roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley, M. Giguere)

Upon a motion by P. Morrison, seconded by M. Giguere, it was:
VOTED to issue an Order of Conditions for 227 Boston Pond Road, MassDEP#169-1199 under the Groton Wetlands Protection Bylaw (Chapter 215).

The motion passed by a roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley, M. Giguere).

1.4. Discuss Future Meetings, Public Hearings, and Inspection Protocol

N. Gualco provided updates on the Select Board's ban on public meetings, which was lifted on 3/30/2020. A discussion ensued about the logistics of hosting a public meeting via the Zoom platform. The lack of opportunity for public input was agreed to be a point to address before the next meeting, which will have several public hearings. Gualco reported that he has been working with the IT Department on a solution to this problem. The topic of electronic signatures was discussed and Gualco reported that under the Wetlands Protection Act and the Town's Bylaw these were acceptable, but that the Middlesex Registry of Deeds still required handwritten signatures. He continued and shared that he is watching Beacon Hill and the Governor's office for potential legislation that would address this issue.

Finally, the Commission discussed the business of reviewing new filings. It was agreed that O. Lathrop and Gualco would still (independently) visit each site prior to a meeting date and report their findings to the Board. Gualco would coordinate with all applicants to provide thorough information to make the remote review process as substantive as possible. He continued and stated that for complicated filings (e.g., a NOI) he would require that applicants stake out key features of their project in the field to make the review process easier for the Commission. Finally, it was

discussed that the Commission will continue to evaluate its review process and make changes as necessary moving forward.

1.5. Discuss Conservation Expenditure and FY20/21 Budget

The Commission reviewed a memo from the Town Manager/Select Board announcing a spending freeze of all non-essential purchases that directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1.6. Approve Meeting Minutes – (Feb 25, 2020, March 10, 2020)

The Commission reviewed a drafted set of minutes for February 25, 2020. M. Giguere shared a scrivener's error he found and O. Lathrop provided a revised set of minutes with minor revisions.

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by M. Giguere, it was VOTED to approve and release the minutes for February 25, 2020 as amended.
The motion passed by roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley, M. Giguere)

Gualco reported that the set of minutes for March 10, 2020 were not yet ready for approval.

7:51 PM – Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by P. Morrison, it was VOTED to adjourn the meeting.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: YES (E. McHugh, B. Easom O. Lathrop, P. Morrison, L. Hurley, M. Giguere)

Minutes Approved: April 14, 2020