



TOWN OF GROTON
Conservation Commission
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Groton Conservation Commission
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 @ 6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

BROADCAST ON ZOOM AND THE GROTON CHANNEL
PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER
CONCERNING THE OPEN MEETING LAW
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81947663778>
WEBINAR ID: 819 4766 3788

Present: Larry Hurley (arrived at 6:45 PM), Chair; Bruce Easom, Vice-Chair; Alison Hamilton, Clerk; Peter Morrison; Eileen McHugh, Olin Lathrop

Absent: John Smigelski

Others Present: Nikolis Gualco, Conservation Administrator

6:30 PM – Vice Chair Easom called the meeting to order.

1. APPOINTMENTS AND HEARINGS*

1.1. 6:30 PM – RDA, 26 Boston Road, for the installation of foundation supports (D. Landry).
Applicant: Andy Ahlquist

A. Ahlquist introduced the project, which involves the installation of a support system to a failing corner of the foundation of an existing single-family-house. A. Ahlquist stated that there would be a minimal amount of digging around the corner so that they could install the support shaft.

P. Morison asked how much disturbance and A. Ahlquist answered it would be approx. 4 cubic feet. E. McHugh asked if there were plans for erosion controls, to which A. Ahlquist answered that there were not currently plans as the disturbance would be so minimal and temporary (the hole would be back filled). A discussion ensued about what would happen if water was encountered when excavating the corner footing and how a hydraulic pump may be needed.

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by E. McHugh, it was:
VOTED to issue a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability under the conditions that: 1) no work is to be done beyond 10 feet from the edge of the foundation; 2) a hydraulic pump shall be on-site during construction and used as needed.

The motion passed by a roll call vote: (PM, OL, EM, BE, AH)

1.2. 6:45 PM – RDA, 52 Island Road, for the removal of hazardous trees (J. Stewart).
Applicant: Jim Stewart

N. Gualco reminded the Commission that this filing was a requirement of the Emergency Certificate that was issued on October 27, 2020. The reasoning was, at the time, Gualco was not sure whether all the trees flagged could be deemed ‘emergencies’ so the RDA provided a ‘belt and suspendeds’ approach.

A. Hamilton asked what the plans were for re-planting to which J. Stewart replied that he would like to replant but that he hasn’t thought through this yet. P. Morrison asked who was removing the trees and Stewart replied ‘Greenleaf Tree Service’ and that the plan is to utilize a crane. E. McHugh stated that she would need to see a planting plan before she approved the RDA. B. Easom suggested the applicant add a leaning maple tree which is hanging over the in-lake retaining wall. Easom stated that if this tree falls it will cleave off a significant portion of the wall, which will result in a lot of earth being dumped into the lake. L. Hurley suggested utilizing the sketch included in the RDA as a base for the planting plan. The Commission and the applicant discussed the plans for re-planting for several minutes.

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:
VOTED to issue a Negative 3 Determination of Applicability for 52 Island Road under the condition that each tree cut down will be replaced by a tree native to Massachusetts.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

1.3. 6:55 pm – NOI (cont.), 601 Lowell Road, for the addition to an existing single-family home, MassDEP#169-1210.
Applicant: Bob Kiley; Representative: Stan Dillis

S. Dillis showed a revised site plan, which includes the addition of 13 high bush blueberry shrubs. Furthermore, Dillis explained that the applicant prefers to utilize concrete foundation piers as he is more comfortable with this method.

O. Lathrop asked if the applicant would be willing to memorialize the plantings in the Order of Conditions as an ‘in perpetuity’ condition. Kiley replied that he would be agreeable to this. L. Hurley commented that the re-charge trench should be around all three sides of the addition/deck.

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by B. Easom, it was:
VOTED to close the public hearing for 601 Lowell Road, MassDEP#169-1210.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

1.4. 7:05 PM – NOI (cont.), 210 Indian Hill Road, for the restoration of an open meadow, MassDEP#169-1211.
Applicant: Steve Boucher; Representative: Atty. Tom Bovenzi.

T. Bovenzi shared that the wetland flagging is now complete, but was not done in time for the Commission to review at it’s recent site walk. He also stated that the agreement between his client

and the Groton Conservation Trust is nearly complete and includes a few items that offer greater protection to the buffer zone. He concluded by requesting a continuation to the November 24, 2020 meeting to allow the Commission time to review the flagging and to provide a copy of the CR agreement.

A discussion ensued about what type of mitigation measures would be appropriate in the case. E. McHugh stated that the Commission should be provided an updated survey which shows the new wetland flags and their associated 50 and 100 foot buffer zones. Ultimately, the Commission decided to hold off on any further discussion until the next meeting.

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

VOTED to continue the public hearing to November 24, 2020 to allow the Commission time to review the wetland flags and review an agreement between the Conservation Trust and the homeowner.

The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

2. GENERAL BUSINESS*

2.1. Permitting

Certificate of Compliance, 244 Nashua Road, MassDEP#169-1202.

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

VOTED to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 244 Nashua Road, MassDEP#169-1202 under the condition that the erosion controls are properly removed from the site.

The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

Certificate of Compliance, 49 Valley Road, MassDEP#169-1088.

Representative: Bill Murray

B. Murray summarized his findings, which included: 1.) no oil tank is installed under the addition and therefore no concrete block containment wall was found; 2.) no drywell was found, however, a drip edge was observed. The drip edge's storage capacity exceeds that of the proposed drywell.

The Commission discussed the Order's requirement to remove any invasive species that became established during the construction of the addition. The Commission was not positive that the existing invasive species became established during construction or afterwards. A remediation plan was discussed.

L. Hurley commented that the erosion controls were still installed and needed to be removed.

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:

VOTED to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 49 Valley Road, MassDEP#169-1088 under the condition that all erosion controls are properly removed from the site.

The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

2.2. Land Management

Crystal Springs CR, vegetation management plan & monitoring needs

Stacie Mosser of the Crystal Springs Homeowners Association provided an update on their efforts to restore the portions of their properties covered under the CR that were damaged in the May 2020 microburst. NHESP has approved management plans for each of the affected houses. The Commission discussed the plan with S. Mosser.

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by B. Easom, it was:

VOTED to approve the vegetation management plans for 12, 18, 24, 28, 29, and 30 Crystal Springs Lane as written.

The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

Monitoring of held CRs

N. Gualco reported that there are several properties that were acquired with CPA money that need CRs written for them. He plans to begin drafting a CR for the Patricia Hallet Conservation Area. He then stated that he would like the Commission to conduct an assessment of the Crystal Springs open space parcel at next week's site walk.

Shattuck Homestead, fallen tree removal – update

L. Hurley reported that the fallen trees have not yet been removed, but believes he and J. Smigelski will get to this in the next week.

Update on mowing of meadow properties (Ames, Eliades, Crosswinds, ONeil, others?)

B. Easom reported on mowing Ames Meadow. N. Gualco reported that the other fields have not yet been mowed.

2.3. Committee Updates/Announcements

Annual report, Lake Massapoag management

The Commission reviewed a letter from Barbara Blanco, Secretary for the Lake Massapoag Rod and Gun Club regarding matters pertaining to lake management and Order of Conditions 169-1045 and 169-969.

CPC Update

B. Easom shared a summary of a recent CPC meeting where all FY22 applications were reviewed. He reported that the CPC asked if the Commission would be flexible with the amount they have asked for due to the number of applications and the limited funds available. Overall, the Commission agreed that flexibility was something they were willing to offer.

2.4. Approve Meeting Minutes

Upon a motion by O. Lathrop, seconded by E. McHugh, it was:
VOTED to approve and release the minutes for August 25, 2020 as amended.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:
VOTED to approve and release the minutes for October 27, 2020 as amended.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

2.5. Invoices

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:
VOTED to approve and pay an invoice by the Great Road Farm and Garden for \$124.99.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by P. Morrison, it was:
VOTED to approve and pay an invoice by the Groton Herald for \$121.00.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

3. **Open Session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting***

None.

4. **IF NEEDED**: Executive Session pursuant to MGL Ch. 30A, Sec. 21(6): * “To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.”

No Executive Session was required.

5. Adjournment

8:27 PM Upon a motion by E. McHugh, seconded by B. Easom, it was:
VOTED to adjourn the public meeting.
The motion passed by a roll call vote: (Yes: PM, OL, AH, EM, BE, LH)

Minutes Approved: November 24, 2020