



Arlington Conservation Commission

Date: January 16, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Second floor conference room, Town Hall Annex
730 Massachusetts Ave, Arlington, MA

Minutes

Attendance: *Commission Members Susan Chapnick (Chair), Pam Heidell, Dave Kaplan, Mike Nonni, Nathaniel Stevens, Chuck Tirone (Vice Chair), and David White; Associate Commissioners Cathy Garnett and Mike Gildesgame; and Conservation Agent Emily Sullivan.*

12/19/2019 and 01/02/2020 Meeting Minutes

The Commission discussed edits to the draft 12/19/2019 minutes. N. Stevens motioned to approve the minutes as edited, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

The Commission discussed edits to the draft 01/02/2019 minutes. N. Stevens motioned to approve the minutes as edited, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

General Updates

S. Chapnick announced that Kathy Baskin from MassDEP said that later in 2020 MassDEP will be proposing updates to the Wetlands Protection Act to consider climate change resilience.

E. Sullivan stated that MassDEP is planning to update its Stormwater Handbook, which is currently inconsistent with the EPA's Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit. MassDEP is developing a working group with a variety of stakeholders for this update.

M. Nonni announced that he was not seeking reappointment to the Commission and that this meeting was his last meeting as a Commissioner. The Commission thanked M. Nonni for his six years of being a Commissioner and for his service to the Town. The Commission expressed that it particularly appreciated his knowledge of landscape architecture and vegetation.

Community Preservation Act Committee

P. Heidell updated the Commission on the timeline for all FY2021 CPA applications. Applicants will present the project proposals to the Committee on 1/30/2020 and 2/5/2020.

Zoning Bylaw Working Group

P. Heidell stated that the Zoning Bylaw Working Group's next meeting is 1/22/2020.

Water Bodies Working Group

D. White updated the Commission on the Water Bodies Working Group (WBWG) meeting that occurred on 01/16/2020. During the meeting, the Working Group discussed: the FY2021 funding allocation for various projects and treatments and the Reservoir Management Survey/Report request for quotes (RFQ). The WBWG requested that Commissioners provide feedback on the draft RFQ and the WBWG's draft annual report.

N. Stevens motioned to submit a Warrant Article to Town Counsel for the appropriation of FY2021 funding to the Water Bodies Fund, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Proposed Wetlands Protection Act Amendments Discussion

The Commission reviewed and discussed the draft letter N. Stevens and E. Sullivan prepared on behalf of the Commission to the MassDEP in regard to the proposed amendments to the Wetlands Protection Act (WPA). The proposed amendments include updates to the following sections: 10.04, 10.05(3)(b), 10.05(4)(a), 10.05(6)(e), and 10.55(2)(c).

N. Stevens motioned to approve the draft letter as edited and submit to MassDEP, M. Nonni seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Arlington Wetlands Protection Regulations Revision Discussion

The Commission reviewed and discussed draft revisions to Section 25: Adjacent Upland Resource Area submitted by P. Heidell and N. Stevens. The Commission discussed whether proposed projects on disturbed parcels should have different standards than proposed projects on undisturbed parcels. Commissioners S. Chapnick, M. Nonni, N. Stevens, D. White, and P. Heidell stated that disturbed and undisturbed parcels should have different standards so that the standards for undisturbed parcels are stricter. Commissioners C. Tirone, C. Garnett, and M. Gildesgame stated that disturbed and undisturbed parcels should have the same standards.

The Commission decided that updates to Section 25: Adjacent Upland Resource Area and New Section: Administrative Review will be discussed at the 02/06/2020 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.