



## **Arlington Conservation Commission**

Date: February 06, 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, Nathaniel Stevens, Chuck Tirone (Vice Chair), and David White; Associate Commissioners Cathy Garnett and Mike Gildesgame; and Conservation Agent Emily Sullivan. Members of the public included Jeanne Sousa, Ann Fitzgerald, Stephen Garvin, and Kevin Sanders.*

### **01/16/2020 Meeting Minutes**

The Commission discussed edits to the draft 01/16/2020 minutes. N. Stevens motioned to approve the minutes as edited, D. Kaplan seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

### **MACC Annual Conference**

E. Sullivan informed the Commission that the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions' Annual Conference is scheduled for Saturday, February 29, 2020 at the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA.

### **Bikeway Tree Maintenance**

E. Sullivan stated that the Arlington Tree Warden informed her that the Department of Public Works plans to conduct tree maintenance (pruning, removal of deadwood and debris) along the Minuteman Bikeway and perhaps also adjacent parts of Mill Brook to remove hazardous trees and branches, and improve user safety. Since parts of the Bikeway fall under Conservation Jurisdiction, the Commission requested that the Tree Warden submit a Request for Determination of Applicability for the work.

### **47 Spy Pond Lane Lots 1/A and 2/B Project Update**

E. Sullivan informed the Commission that the Superseding Orders of Conditions issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection on 12/29/2016 for both Lot 1/A and Lot 2/B expired on 12/29/2019 and that the Applicant had failed to request an extension from MassDEP. As such, the project sites are only permitted under the local Arlington Wetlands Protection Bylaw, and not the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. The Project Manager for this project is putting together Notices of Intent (NOIs) for Lot 1/A and Lot 2/B to submit to the Commission. The NOIs will be filed under

the Wetlands Protection Act only, since the work has already been approved under the local bylaw. The Project Manager has halted all work on both lots, but has requested that framing of the house on Lot 2/B be allowed to continue while the NOIs are filed and reviewed since the house already has a foundation. The Commission agreed that framing the house on Lot 2/B would have no impact on the resource area, but noted that Lot 2/B was in non-compliance with some of the conditions issued in the Order of Conditions issued by the Commission under the Bylaw. The Commission requested that the following actions be taken to come into compliance with the OOC for Lot 2/B.

1. Install the MassDEP file number sign for Lot 2/B
2. Lock construction entrance gate at all times when work is not occurring
3. Street sweep in front of the site at the end of each work day
4. Cover all stockpiled materials in the 100-ft wetlands buffer
5. Keep a paper copy of the Lot 2/B Order of Conditions onsite

Once these actions are implemented, Lot 2/B is inspected, and the lot is known to be in compliance, the Commission agreed that the Conservation Agent could administratively approve the continuation of framing the house on Lot 2/B.

### **Water Bodies Working Group**

D. White updated the Commission on the Water Bodies Working Group (WBWG) meeting that occurred on 02/06/2020. During the meeting, the Working Group discussed the FY2021 funding allocation and the Reservoir Management Survey/Report request for quotes (RFQ). The WBWG will present its proposed FY2021 funding allocation and its 2019 Annual Report to the Finance Committee on 02/19/2020.

### **Request for Determination of Applicability: Arlington High School Phase 1 Drainage Relocation, 869 Mass Ave Arlington File Number RDA #A20.1**

#### *Documents Reviewed:*

- 1) *Request for Determination of Applicability (RDA), dated 1/17/2020*
- 2) *RDA Plan Set, dated 1/23/2020, stamped by Stephen R. Garvin P.E. #42772*
- 3) *RDA Maps and Photos, dated 1/23/2020*
- 4) *RDA Climate Change Resilience Narrative, dated 1/27/2020*

#### *Resource Areas:*

- 1) *100-Foot Wetlands Buffer Zone*
- 2) *Adjacent Upland Resource Area (AURA)*
- 3) *Mill Brook*

S. Garvin of Samiotes presented the project summary. The project is limited to Phase 1 of the Arlington High School project which includes the relocation of the existing drainage system. The project proposes to relocate a drainage system, which takes runoff from a 4,626,373.5 square foot watershed that enters a catch basin on Mass Ave and conveys the runoff into Mill Brook. The current main is 48", and the relocated main will also be 48". The relocated drainage infrastructure will maintain the same flow as it currently conveys. S. Garvin stated that Samiotes worked with the Arlington Engineering Division to design this relocation project.

E. Sullivan read comments regarding the RDA submitted to the Commission by Patricia Worden on 02/05/2020.

N. Stevens motioned to issue a negative determination and that the work is subject to the Wetlands Protection Act and Arlington Wetlands Protection Bylaw but that a Notice of Intent is not required (negative determination N3), D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

### **Arlington's Great Meadows Restoration Project**

D. White, representing the Friends of Arlington's Great Meadows (FoAGM), presented a collaborative project opportunity to the Commission. The project is an upland meadow restoration project in the entry meadow section of Arlington's Great Meadows (AGM), near the Emerson Gardens Road entrance to AGM. FoAGM is proposing that the Commission help review project plans once developed and submit a letter of support for the project. FoAGM is not requesting fiscal sponsorship. Background documents including the ecological survey sponsored by the Arlington Conservation Commission in 2000 and a meadow restoration plan developed by Mass Audubon in 2009 are available at the FoAGM website: [www.FoAGM.org](http://www.FoAGM.org)

P. Heidell asked if the Lexington Conservation Commission (LCC) supports the project. D. White confirmed that LCC supports the project. M. Gildesgame asked why this specific area is targeted for restoration. D. White stated that the habitat is unique since it is meadow in a largely wooded area. This area has also historically been home to the American Woodcock, so FoAGM would like to restore the meadow so that it continues to be home to unique species. P. Heidell asked if the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program needs to be involved in the project. D. White stated that they do not need to be involved. The Commission agreed to review project information, including plans and permit applications, and write a letter of support for the project.

### **Arlington Wetlands Protection Regulations Revision Discussion**

The Commission reviewed and discussed draft revisions to Section 25: Adjacent Upland Resource Area. The Commission also reviewed draft language for a new section, Administrative Review Permit. The Commission decided that the draft Administrative Review Permit section will also be discussed at the 02/27/2020 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.