



Arlington Conservation Commission

Date: April 16, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Conducted through Remote Participation using Zoom

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 Ron Strohsahl, Kim Alexander, and Russ Barton.

Administrative

E. Sullivan stated that there would be a Wellington Park virtual public presentation through Zoom on Wednesday 4/22/2020 at 7:00pm to present concepts on the next phase of design and get feedback from residents. The presentation would be followed up with an online survey to get more specific feedback about project concepts.

E. Sullivan stated that DPW and the Parks Division would be implementing a no mow zone around the McClennen detention basins this spring, and only mow the 10-15 feet of grass immediately adjacent to the basins once a year in the fall.

Vote to Authorize Conservation Agent to Sign Permits on Behalf of Commission

The Commission discussed the difficulty of signing permits when the Commission can only meet virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Commission discussed authorizing E. Sullivan to sign permits on behalf of the Commission for the duration of the declared State of Emergency.

N. Stevens motioned to authorize E. Sullivan as the Conservation Agent to sign permits on behalf of the Commission members for the duration of the State of Emergency, D. Kaplan seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Vote to Register for a Conservation Commission Zoom Pro Account

The Commission discussed whether it should continue using an existing Town Zoom Pro Account or if the Commission should purchase its own Zoom Pro Account. E. Sullivan presented two Conservation Accounts that had enough funding to pay for a Zoom Pro Account for the duration of the State of Emergency. The Commission agreed that a Zoom Account was an eligible expense for the Commission's Wetlands Fee Account.

C. Tirone motioned for the Commission to purchase its own Zoom Pro Account for the duration of the State of Emergency, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Notice of Intent: 93 Sunnyside Ave
MassDEP File #091-0319

Documents Reviewed:

- 1) *Notice of Intent for work at 93 Sunnyside Ave, Arlington MA dated 02/13/2020*

Resource Areas:

- 1) *Alewife Brook*
- 2) *200-Foot Riverfront Area*
- 3) *Bordering Land Subject to Flooding*

The Commission reviewed the draft permit for this project. The Commission discussed the special conditions of the draft permit.

D. White motioned to approve the project under the Wetlands Protection Act and Arlington Bylaw for Wetlands Regulation with the special conditions agreed upon by the Commission, N. Stevens seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Notices of Intent: 47 Spy Pond Lane Lots 1/A and 2/B NOIs
MassDEP File #s 091-0317 and 0961-0317

Documents Reviewed:

- 1) *Notice of Intent for work at 47 Spy Pond Lane (Lot 1/Lot A), Arlington, MA dated 02/20/2020*
- 2) *Notice of Intent for work at 47 Spy Pond Lane (Lot 2/Lot B), Arlington, MA dated 02/20/2020*

Resource Areas:

- 1) *Spy Pond*
- 2) *100-Foot Wetlands Buffer Zone*
- 3) *Adjacent Upland Resource Area*
- 4) *Bordering Land Subject to Flooding*
- 5) *Bank*

The Commission reviewed the draft permits for both projects. The Commission discussed the special conditions of the draft permits.

N. Stevens motioned to continue deliberation of these projects to the Commission's 05/07/2020 meeting, C. Tirone seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Notice of Intent: 77 Sunnyside Ave
MassDEP File #091-0320

Documents Reviewed:

- 1) *Notice of Intent for work at 77 Sunnyside Ave, Arlington MA dated 03/05/2020*

Resource Areas:

- 1) *Alewife Brook*
- 2) *100-Foot Wetlands Buffer Zone*
- 3) *100-Foot Adjacent Upland Resource Area*
- 4) *200-Foot Riverfront Area*
- 5) *Bordering Land Subject to Flooding*

R. Strohsahl presented the project. This project proposes building an elevated addition in the backyard and an entranceway in the front yard. The back addition and front addition are both within the 100-ft Wetland Buffer and 200-ft Riverfront Area. No work is proposed within the floodplain. The project also proposes replacing an existing bituminous concrete walkway and driveway with pervious pavers.

R. Strohsahl presented information that two Commission members independently requested through the Conservation Agent after its 04/02/2020 hearing on this project:

The Commission reviewed the supplemental material. D. Kaplan asked if the proposed pervious pavers had any details and specifications. E. Sullivan shared the details and specifications with the Commission.

P. Heidell commented that the supplemental material and the changes made to the project since the 04/02/2020 hearing were improvements and that the project now complied with the Town's Bylaw for Wetlands Protection. N. Stevens stated that the project was much improved with the new information and changes. S. Chapnick thought the rain garden and new trees were a great addition to the project.

N. Stevens motioned to close the public hearing for this project, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

The Commission discussed the special conditions of the draft permits, including:

- The Conservation Agent shall conduct inspections of the permeable paver walkway and driveway during the following stages of construction: 1) when the areas have been excavated, and 2) when the base materials have been installed.

N. Stevens motioned to approve the project under the Wetlands Protection Act and Arlington Bylaw for Wetlands Regulation with the special conditions discussed by the Commission, P. Heidell seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Notice of Intent: 1297 Mass Ave
MassDEP File #091-0321

Documents Reviewed:

- 1) *Notice of Intent for work at 1297 Mass Ave, Arlington MA dated 03/03/2020*

Resource Areas:

- 1) *Mill Brook*
- 2) *100-Foot Wetlands Buffer Zone*

- 3) *100-Foot Adjacent Upland Resource Area*
- 4) *200-Foot Riverfront Area*

R. Barton presented the project. This project proposes the excavation and remediation of soil contaminated by commercial kitchen soy bean oil grease within the 100-ft Wetlands Buffer and 200-ft Riverfront Area.

D. Kaplan stated the vegetation replacement plan should include native vegetation like shrubs, ferns, and sedges, rather than just turf. C. Garnett recommended that the native vegetation selected should have strong roots to mitigate bank erosion.

D. White mentioned that there was a restoration project discussed with the Commission approximately 5 years ago in the vicinity of this proposed work. N. Stevens stated the restoration work may have been proposed near 30 Park Ave, near the Mill Brook culvert. N. Stevens asked E. Sullivan to look for these restoration plan documents.

C. Tirone asked whether the grease waste container will be replaced and if additional precautions will be taken to prevent leaks in the future. C. Tirone requested an Operation and Maintenance plan for the grease waste container.

S. Chapnick asked whether the applicant had considered moving the location of the grease waste container so that it would be further from the resource area.

The Commission requested the following additional information:

- 1) an O&M plan for the grease waste container
- 2) shrubs/plugs in addition to the grass mix proposed
- 3) amended plans with a 12" compost sock as erosion control

N. Stevens motioned to continue the hearing to the Commission's 05/07/2020 meeting, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

D. White motioned to close the Commission meeting, N. Stevens seconded, all were in favor, motioned approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.