



Arlington Conservation Commission

Date: June 18, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

Location: Conducted through Remote Participation using Zoom

Minutes

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

05/21/2020 Meeting Minutes

The Commission discussed edits to the draft 05/21/2020 minutes. N. Stevens motioned to approve the minutes as edited, D. White seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

06/04/2020 Meeting Minutes

The Commission discussed edits to the draft 06/04/2020 minutes. D. Kaplan motioned to approve the minutes as edited, P. Heidell seconded, all were in favor, motion approved.

Administrative Update

Arlington High School Notice of Intent

The Commission discussed the 06/12/2020 site visit to review the Arlington High School Notice of Intent. The Commission asked E. Sullivan to ask the Applicant's Representative for more information per the observations made during the site visit. Site visit notes were distributed previously to all Commission members. S. Chapnick asked the MACC helpline for comments on Artificial Turf Fields. Comments were previously distributed to all Commission members. E. Sullivan reached out to the Sharon Conservation Commission and received public documents concerning a similar artificial turf field proposed at a local high school in that town - these materials were made available for reference.

Thorndike Place Proposal

The Commission discussed the impending Zoning Board of Appeals hearing for the Thorndike Place 40B Proposal. S. Chapnick, N. Stevens, and P. Heidell offered to draft a letter of comments to submit to the ZBA regarding the newly submitted application materials. The Town has not yet received the comments from its contracted third-party reviewer, BETA Group, but will likely receive those comments in July. D. White stated

he would recuse himself from the review of the Thorndike Place proposal since he has known the developers for a long time.

Magnolia Field Vegetation Maintenance

E. Sullivan communicated a request to the Commission to manage cattails growing along the fence line of Magnolia Field, along the backyards of properties on Varum Street. A resident called the Conservation Office because the cattails are encroaching on her backyard. The Commission stated that it is working to create buffer areas in public spaces to encourage native landscaping, and would not approve removing the native cattails along the boundary of Magnolia Park. The Commission stated that the resident could file a Request for Determination of Applicability, but the cattails are located in the floodplain. The Commission discussed whether the cattails could be cut annually, in late fall after the cattails have gone to seed. Ultimately, the Commission did not agree with cutting down vegetation in the floodplain without public review.

Symmes Conservation Restriction Encroachment

E. Sullivan informed the Commission that the Arlington Land Trust was hosting a site walk of the Symmes Conservation Restriction to review encroachment identified along the CR in 2019 by surveying firm Beals+Thomas. The site walk is scheduled for Friday, June 19 at 8:30am. The Arlington Land Trust is scheduled to discuss the encroachment in more detail with the Commission during its 7/9/2020 meeting.

Commission Summer Meeting Schedule

The Commission discussed its summer meeting schedule. C. Garnett stated she would be unable to attend the 7/23/2020 and 8/6/2020 meetings. D. Kaplan stated he would be unable to attend the 9/3/2020 meeting.

MACC Fall Workshop

S. Chapnick announced that the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions will host its fall workshop virtually from October 17-24, 2020. S. Chapnick stated that the Commission could submit a workshop proposal for urban forest management and climate change resilience challenges. E. Sullivan said she would reach out to the Town's Tree Warden to see if he would be interested in presenting a workshop on urban forest management, and C. Garnett offered to assist. S. Chapnick said she would work on the climate change resilience challenges proposal.

Regulatory Update: Vegetation Removal and Replacement Section

The Commission reviewed and discussed Section 24: Vegetation Removal and Replacement for the Arlington Regulations for Wetlands Protection.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20pm.