

**TOWN OF LYNNFIELD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 16, 2019, 6:30 PM

H. Joseph Maney Hearing Room, Lynnfield Town Hall

Members present:

Commissioners; Chairman Paul Martindale, Don Gentile, Chris Martone, Angelo Salamone, Bill Thompson, Melanie Lovell. (Director Emilie Cademartori in attendance at the 4/16/2019 Planning Board meeting, Jennifer Welter filling in as necessary).

6:31pm Chairman Paul Martindale called the meeting to order.

6:32pm – Request for Determination – 72 Bourque Road

 Applicant: Brian & Karen Moreira

Project: Installation of leaching catch basin and overflow pipe to pond to alleviate drainage problem

Melanie Lovell recused herself from the discussion and left the meeting room. Paul Marchionda of Marchionda & Associates presented the project. The work will temporarily disrupt the buffer and resource areas, while restoring the site. During storm events the water will drain into the pond, where it now flows over the driveway. Gentile commented that the proposed work is an improvement. Thompson commented that he visited the site earlier in the day, and that some silt fencing was below the water level allowing silt to flow into the pond. He suggested the silt fencing be brought back into repair until the project is completed. Salamone opined that the overall work was an improvement.

On a motion duly made by Gentile and seconded by Salamone the LCC voted (5-0) to issue a negative 3 determination, as the work described in the request is within the buffer zone but will not alter an area subject to protection under the Act, and does not require filing of an NOI.

6:44pm - Update - 2 Broadway - DEP File # 209-413

William Sparages was present to provide an update, along with developers Gregg and Gina Monastiero and their attorney Ruth Silman from Nixon Peabody.

This is a 40B project. The project is nearly 14 years old. The original developer received an OCC in 2006, which had then been extended several times - the last extension expiring August 1, 2019. The new developers (Monastieros) purchased the project 15 months ago, and claim to have just received final approval from MassHousing. Site work has begun. The foundation was finished this March. The drainage system will be going in over the next few months. Some garage subfloor utilities are going in now. All the infrastructure pieces are delivered and on site. An extension will be necessary, as the work will not be completed by the current extension's expiration date August 1, 2019.

Chair Martindale recommended that the twice-monthly project reporting continue. Williams also added that his firm is monitoring the site on a weekly basis. Martindale added that Linden Engineering should follow this project, based on its size. He also suggested that a project update be given at the May meeting. Monestiero said that the Building Department requested that tonight's update be provided and, if approved, a sign-off from ConCom was required. Ruth Silman will prepare a formal request to amend the order within 1-2 weeks, so that the project can be reviewed at the May meeting. No abutters were present.

Martindale requested that a listing of all the project changes from the original OOC be provided with the request to amend the order.

On a motion duly made by Gentile and seconded by Lovell, the LCC voted (6-0) to issue a letter in support of the project to the building inspector that there are no objections to the continuation of the project.

7:10pm – Request for tree removal - 77 Walnut Street

Homeowner John Cervone was present to update the Board. Cervone reported that there are 7 large white pines that are dropping limbs along the edge of his driveway, posing a danger to his home and property. A letter from his arborist was included.

Lovell indicated that, if the white pines were removed, she wished to see replacement trees, particularly since the loss of the white pines would be a significant loss of habitat, particularly over deciduous replacements. Cervone reported that he would like to replace them with new trees such as arborvitae, American White Cedar or hemlock. Martindale said that he would like to see at least 7 new trees planted if the 7 white pines are removed.

Thompson said that he reviewed the property and did not agree that limbs were falling off. Rather, white pines tend to naturally self-prune. He recommended a site visit to corroborate what he saw, noting that these were important trees for habitat and for stabilizing the bank. Lovell agreed to a site visit. Martindale added that the arborist's letter was weak, at best.

Jennifer added that Emilie had suggested that if a site visit was scheduled, it be combined with a work party site visit to the new conservation property at 70 Walnut Street. The site visit was set for Saturday, April 27 at 10:00am, first at 77 Walnut, then at 70 Walnut.

7:24pm - Request for Certificate of Compliance -- 623 Salem Street

_____Applicant: Don Q Real Estate

Project: Removal of two cesspools, installation of new septic system, including tank and leaching field and construction of 12' x 18' deck

A letter from James Kavanaugh was presented indicating support for approval of the plan. Martindale reported that director Cademartori is comfortable with the board issuing a COC. Martindale asked if any board members preferred a final site visit before issuing a COC.

On a motion duly made by Lovell and seconded by Gentile, the LCC voted (6-0) to issue a COC for the project at 623 Salem Street.

7:27pm - Update - 35 Elmwood - Septic installation in buffer with no permit

Martindale reported that Cademartori has still not received any documentation from the homeowner, and suggested that this project be held over until the May meeting.

7:28pm - Updates/Correspondence and Administrative Matters:

Pillings Pond 2019 Treatment Contract:

Martindale pointed out the new Solitude contract which proposes a major change - a monthly low dosage of copper sulfate in place of a single large seasonal dose.

This approach is also cheaper than the alum treatment, and safer for drinking water. Lovell questioned if phragmites treatment was included. Martindale responded that beyond this contract, the phragmites would be treated at a separate fee, and on an as-needed basis. Gentile asked if the treatment was dependent on the amount of seasonal rainfall. Martindale responded that too little rainfall is more of a problem.

Martindale suggested that this new approach be tried.

A member of a visiting student group in the audience - Salem State University Environmental Studies - Zack Serino - asked about the potential toxicity of copper sulfate, and how the Board would know what dosage was too much or too little. Martindale noted that this could be more of an art than a science, providing a brief discussion of the cellular impact of copper sulfate.

Homeowner Brian Roberts of 3 Lakeview Avenue, a Pillings Pond abutter, also expressed an interest in the pond treatment methodologies and an interest in being involved in any task force efforts involving the Pond. (The Pillings Pond Task Force includes Martindale, Gentile, and volunteer and Pond abutter Kirk Mansfield)

On a motion duly made by Thompson and seconded by Lovell the LCC voted (6-0) to sign the Solitude contract as proposed for Pillings Pond 2019 treatment.

MACC Webinar - April 17 12:00noon

Lovell reported that an MACC webinar regarding certified vernal pools would be presented on April 17 at 12:00noon.

Hazard Tree Policy Discussion:

Martindale asked Lovell about the absence of any Hazard Tree policy verbiage in the April issue of “Tree Talk”. Lovell noted that she would again make inquiries at the next Tree Committee meeting. Gentile asked if it would make sense for someone with a white pine to be given the approval to remove the tree and replant with a different species. A brief discussion ensued among board members. Martindale reiterated the necessity of having a policy in place, including educational materials to help guide homeowners in replacement tree plantings. He also added that “Tree Talk” may not be the best vehicle for this effort. Welter added that Cademartori routinely receives calls about tree removal but absent a policy, is unable to enforce replacement tree planting if she approves tree removal. Martindale reiterated the need for parameters and educational materials, which would ultimately lead to the development of a workable policy. Thompson noted that Wilmington, along with numerous other towns, has a hazardous tree removal policy, to which Martindale suggested that a copy of it, and whatever others are already in existence be added to the packets for the May meeting. (The Tree Task Force includes Lovell, Thompson and Solomon)

“Know your Watershed” Workshop update - May 15

Welter provided a draft agenda outline to board members. The workshop, Wednesday May 15 from 7-8PM at the middle school, will be hosted by ConCom and include a panel of speakers from the Ipswich River Watershed Association and the Lynnfield Center Water District. The focus will be on water conservation for homeowners - specifically watering lawns, leak detection and a new low-flow toilet rebate program being offered by the LCWD. Several board members expressed an interest in attending.

Open Space & Recreation Committee (MAPC maps):

The MAPC has forwarded their first drafts of 6 of the 8 required maps for the Open Space plan. Cademartori and Welter will be reviewing April 17.

Open Space & Recreation Committee (Pine Hill Lot):

The lot has been flagged by the LHS cross-country coaches, and rough-GPS marked by Patrick McDonald, the DPW intern. Michael Madden, a member of the LHS cross country team and a boy scout, has expressed interest in developing an Eagle Scout project to complete this project. He is meeting to further discuss the work scope with Cademartori on April 18 at 12:00noon.

Job posting - Field Inspector:

The draft is complete. Cademartori is finalizing the pay structure with the Town Engineer, based on work expectations for either encompassing the full year, or limited to the construction season.

Planning Board meeting April 24:

As Cademartori will be absent on vacation, she suggested that it would be helpful for the Planning Board members to hear feedback directly from ConCom members regarding the Road A project and the removal of trees and the protection of habitat for birds, amphibians and other relevant species in Reedy Meadow.

Pesticide Awareness - Regarding use of organics for Town properties

At Patti Fabbri's encouragement, Chip Osborne, speaker for the Pesticide Awareness Committee's annual organic lawn care seminar, is meeting with Cademartori, Fabbri and DPW Director John Tomasz to discuss potential use of organics for Town properties, at 2:00pm on April 17. In addition to multiple locations nationwide, Osborne has been successful in having the Town of Marblehead use organics on all its Town properties.

Minutes - February 26, 2019 and March 27, 2019

The February meeting minutes were reviewed and corrected. The March 27, 2019 meeting minutes were postponed for discussion until the May meeting.

On a motion duly made by Gentile and seconded by Thompson the LCC voted (6-0) to approve the February 26, 2019 meeting minutes as corrected.

"Walk on the Wild Side" - next site?

Martindale asked about scheduling the next "Walk" and the specific location. He further suggested the next walk to Partridge Island to also include inspection of the MBTA culvert removal project. Gentile suggested that the date for this "Walk" be scheduled during the April 27 site visit to 70 and 77 Walnut Street.

Open Files: none at this time.

Bills: none at this time.

8:21pm - On a motion duly made by Salamone and seconded by Lovell the LCC voted (6-0) to adjourn the meeting.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Tuesday, May 21, 2019

As recorded and submitted by Jennifer Welter