



Stephanie Radner, Chair
Nathan Gauthier, Vice Chair
Eliot Foulds, Clerk
Leigh Hafrey, Associate
Nick Garlick, Associate
Bob Holmes, Associate
Erik DeAvila, Associate
Tim Puopolo, Alternate
Elissa Brown, Agent
Patrick Hogan, Assistant Agent

450 Washington Street
Dedham, MA 02026

Tel: (781) 751-9210
Fax: (781) 751-9109

Website
www.dedham-ma.gov

TOWN OF DEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of September 2, 2021

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and given the current prohibitions on gatherings imposed by Governor Baker's March 23, 2020 "Order Assuring Continued Operation of Essential Services in the Commonwealth, Closing Workplaces, and Prohibiting Gatherings of More than 10 People," this public hearing was conducted both in person and virtually, as allowed by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20.

The following Commissioners were present:

Stephanie Radner, Chair
Nathan Gauthier, Vice Chair
Eliot Foulds, Clerk
Bob Holmes
Leigh Hafrey
Erik DeAvila (arrived after 1st motion on item 1.1)
Tim Puopolo, Alternate

The following staff were also present:

Elissa Brown, Agent
Patrick Hogan, Assistant Agent

The following Commissioners were absent:

Nick Garlick

The following Applicants and/or Representatives were present:

Sandra Blackwood, Applicant – 13 Wiggin Avenue

Commissioner Radner called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act, M.G.L. Chapter 131, Section 40, the Dedham Wetlands Bylaw, and the Dedham Stormwater Management Bylaw.

1. Continued Applications (Applications Previously Opened to be Discussed Tonight)

1.1 13 Wiggin Avenue – Local Bylaw RDA 2021-11 – Install Fence Within 50 Feet of Wetland

Applicant: Sandra Blackwood Representative: None Request: Issue Neg. DoA

Ms. Blackwood gave an update on her proposed project. She stated Agent Brown measured the site and found that the partially completed fence is encroaching approximately 13' into the abutting Town owned parcel. She did not realize she was encroaching because she was just continuing her neighbor's fence line. She is now proposing to move the fence 13' back into her property, still including the 6" gap at the bottom. She has also had the grass clippings and debris removed from the wetland area.

Agent Brown confirmed and stated she checked her measurements against a plot plan. She also examined historic aerials and saw a past fence that was placed along the back of the shed. She suggested Ms. Blackwood use this as a guide when installing her new fence.

Commissioner Radner noted that similar applications had been approved by the Commission in the past, provided a 6" gap is left at the bottom for the passage of wildlife.

Commissioner Radner opened the floor to the other commissioners for questions and comments. She received no responses.

Commissioner Radner opened the floor to the public for questions and comments. She received no responses.

Commissioner Radner asked if Agent Brown had drafted a Negative Determination of Applicability. Agent Brown stated she created a draft before the previous hearing and could update it with developments from this meeting.

Commissioner Radner motioned to close the public hearing for this item. Commissioner Gauthier seconded. Commissioner Radner led a roll call vote. All attending commissioners voted "aye." Motion carried 5-0.

Commissioner Radner motioned to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for the project with the condition that the fence be placed on Ms. Blackwood's property and 6" be left at the bottom for wildlife passage. Commissioner Radner led a roll call vote. All attending commissioners voted "aye." Motion carried 6-0.

2. New Applications

There were no new applications to be discussed

3. Request for COC – 855-875 Providence Highway – DEP #141-0485

Agent Brown stated the project team had originally requested a Certificate of Compliance in October, but during inspection she had noted dumpster leachate migrating via an asphalt ramp directly into the wetlands. The project team installed a berm to corral the leachate, which is now being directed to a catch basin and water quality unit.

Commissioner Foulds stated he had been to the site and asked why a ramp into the wetlands was installed. Agent Brown stated it was installed for DPW to have access to a sewer line.

Commissioner Radner asked if the Certificate of Compliance was for the entire project or for the correction of the dumpster issue. Agent Brown stated it was for the entire project.

Commissioner Radner opened the floor to the other commissioners for questions and comments. She received no responses.

Commissioner Radner opened the floor to the public for questions and comments. She received no responses.

Commissioner Radner motioned to issue a Certificate of Compliance for this item. Commissioner Hafrey seconded. Commissioner Radner led a roll call vote. All attending commissioners voted "aye." Motion carried 6-0.

4. Minutes – 8/19/21; 4/15/21; 3/4/21; 2/4/21

Commissioner Radner stated she had not yet completed her review of the minutes. She asked if the other commissioners had been able to review the minutes. No commissioners had.

Agent Brown stated that the rest of the backlog of minutes will be available for review at the next meeting. She suggested they could be shared well in advance of the next hearing so the Commission can have time to review them and discuss them all at once.

Commissioner Radner commented that the name "Hegarty" was misspelled in the minutes from the April 1st meeting.

5. Agent's Report

Agent Brown stated the plans for 80 Bridge Street have changed since Mr. Petruzzello became involved and she has directed him to formally request a modification. She also stated MassDOT is using part of the property as a staging area, which was not approved or permitted. She visited the site and asked the workers to sweep up the site, put barriers around stockpiled materials, and install a sediment bag on one catch basin. She stated the work here is nearly complete.

Agent Brown stated she visited 480 Sprague Street after the recent storm and the stormwater management system still doesn't seem to be draining as it should. The project engineers had previously examined it and verified it was working as intended, but it still seems to be excessively retaining water.

Commissioner DeAvila stated he recently visited a property on Schoolmaster Lane and noted a large amount of water flowing to the recently approved driveway. He stated the water seemed to be coming from the adjacent property's infiltration system (the one to the left when sitting in the driveway). He stated it was a substantial amount of water and makes him concerned the infiltration system for that property is not working as intended. He asked if there are any inspections that occur to ensure drainage features function. Agent Brown stated inspections occur during installations and before the final Certificate of Compliance is issued. Agent Brown stated a Certificate of Compliance had not been issued for the indicated property yet and she will investigate the issue further. She stated she has another appointment on Schoolmaster Lane next week and will visit this site while she's there.

Commissioner Gauthier motioned to adjourn. Commissioner Hafrey seconded. Commissioner Radner led a roll call vote. All attending commissioners voted "aye." Motion carried 6-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 pm.