



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

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TOWN OF DEDHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Minutes of February 17, 2022

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 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
Erik DeAvila
Leigh Hafrey
Bob Holmes
Tim Puopolo, Alternate

The following staff were also present:

Elissa Brown, Agent
Patrick Hogan, Assistant Agent

The following Commissioners were absent:

Eliot Foulds, Clerk
Nick Garlick

The following Applicants and/or Representatives were present:

Bob LoPorto, Open Space and Recreation Committee
Mike Toohill, Representative – 124 Country Club Road
John Getherall, Representative – Prevett Terrace

Commissioner Radner called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. Discussion with Open Space Recreation Committee regarding Wigwam Pond

Bob LoPorto, chair of the Open Space and Recreation Committee stated he has not met with the Open Space and Recreation Committee yet, and therefore does not represent that committee's position, but wanted to share his thoughts on this topic after participating in the Conservation Commission's site visit earlier in the day. He stated he supports requesting the proposed Quabish Road development to also provide connections to both Wigwam Pond and Fairbanks Park on Rustcraft Road. He also noted he

intends to work with Town Planner Jeremy Rosenberger to introduce an Article this fall to fund an access study of a potential connection between Wigwam Pond and Memorial Field.

Commissioner Radner acknowledged access to Wigwam Pond is a desirable project amongst residents. She also noted that the current access to Wigwam Pond has been underutilized since LL Bean moved their classes to the Dolan Center and could benefit from maintenance and/or upgrade.

Mr. LoPorto added that he believes connecting these Town sites to the proposed development would improve the value of the property.

Commissioner Hafrey stated he agreed with Mr. LoPorto's comments.

Commissioner Holmes expressed concern if a potential trail through the wetlands would need to be artificially lit at night. Commissioner Radner agreed with the concern and stated it should be discussed with the applicant if they propose the project.

Commissioner DeAvila stated he'd like to see a walkway added around the development in addition to walkways to Fairbanks Park and the pond.

Commissioner Gauthier stated he supports increasing access to bodies of water such as Wigwam Pond.

Alternate Puopolo suggested that the fields at Fairbanks Park could be connected to Wigwam Pond with a small access to the trail from the potential development.

Commissioner Radner asked that the Commission's thoughts be compiled and provided to the Planning Board. She also asked Mr. LoPorto to share the Commission's comments with the Open Space and Recreation Committee for their consideration as they discuss this potential project.

2. New Applications

2.1. 124 Country Club Road – DEP # 141-0594 – 6th Hole Drainage

Applicant: Ryan Kenny, Dedham Country and Polo Club

Representative: Michael Toohill, Coneco

Mr. Toohill stated the proposed project would install drainage infrastructure at the 6th hole of the golf course. He stated some existing drainage infrastructure is currently in place, but it is old and does not function well. They would like to drain the area to decrease the amount of mechanical and chemical input needed to keep the turfgrass healthy. Mr. Toohill stated they are proposing to install a new system consisting of two networks of 4" perforated pipe in trenches on 20' centers. The two networks will then empty into two 12" pipes, which will direct flow to two pump chambers, one on the north side of the work area and one on the south side. The pumps will discharge water to a wetland (north pump) and an existing man-made pond (south pump) via existing discharge points. No work will occur in a wetland, but about 48 ft² of riverfront area and 2,400 ft² of 100-year floodplain will be impacted. However, all work is subsurface and will be returned to its current state, so flow and storage will not be affected.

Commissioner DeAvila stated he was concerned with a pumped discharge to the wetlands causing erosion. Mr. Toohill stated he would consider erosion potential, but he doesn't believe it will be an issue. Commissioner Radner asked if it was possible to add rip-rap at the end of the pipe to dissipate the force of the pumped water. Commissioner DeAvila suggested a rain garden splash pool as a solution. Mr. Toohill suggested the existing pipe could be cut short and something to accommodate the discharge could be placed at the edge of the golf course. Commissioner Gauthier agreed that adding something to dissipate the force of the flow would be consistent similar permitted projects and should be included.

Commissioner DeAvila asked for the size/pump rate of the pump. Mr. Toohill stated it had not been sized yet, but would likely discharge from a typical sump pump pipe sleeved into the existing discharge pipes. Commissioner Radner asked if the pump could be overwhelmed during heavy rainstorms. Mr. Toohill

stated it was a possibility, but any excess water would just backup and stand on the turf until the pump catches up.

Commissioner Gauthier noted that if the pipe/sump was lower than the groundwater, water from the wetland would continuously enter the sump, essentially dewatering the wetland. Mr. Toohill responded that the lowest location of work will occur at elevation 94' or 95' and the wetland is about elevation 89'. He stated the system will be shallow and he doesn't believe it will dewater the wetland. Commissioner Gauthier asked if the sump was enclosed. Mr. Toohill confirmed.

Commissioner Gauthier stated he was concerned the chemicals and fertilizers from the golf course might be easily and directly discharged to the wetlands and the pond due to the shallow depth of the pipes. He also commented that this project will likely disturb more than 2,000 ft² of ground, which would require a Major Stormwater Management Permit. Mr. Toohill stated that the Town's stormwater regulations contain a provision for waiving Major Stormwater Management Permit filings for projects that don't cause stormwater impacts. Commissioner Gauthier stated the Commission is allowed to waive the need for certain supporting documents of a permit application, but not waive the necessity of applying for a permit altogether. Agent Brown confirmed Commissioner Gauthier's statement. Commissioner Gauthier added that, in particular, he'd like to review and erosion and sedimentation control plan for the project. Commissioner Radner and Commissioner DeAvila agreed that the applicant should file for a Major Stormwater Management Permit. Mr. Toohill noted Section 4.A.1.k. of the regulations, which he believes would allow waiving of a Major Stormwater Management Permit for this project. After review, Commissioner Radner noted that the allowance of a waiver noted in this section is for projects that will not result in an increased amount of stormwater runoff or pollutants flowing from a parcel of land. She stated that this provision did not apply as the goal of this project is to increase the runoff from the site.

Commissioner DeAvila asked if subsurface infiltration chambers could be included as part of the underground flow path to allow the water and any fertilizers or chemicals more of a chance to soak into the ground under the surface. Mr. Toohill agreed to consider it, but voiced concerns about the amount of excavation it would require.

Commissioner DeAvila suggested the installed manholes be perforated to allow another opportunity for the water to soak into the ground. Mr. Toohill stated he would consider it in the design. Commissioner Gauthier reminded Mr. Toohill of his earlier comment to be cognizant of the depth of the water table in relation to a perforated manhole to prevent dewatering the wetlands.

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

Commissioner Radner **motioned to continue this item to the meeting on 3/17/22**. Commissioner DeAvila seconded. Commissioner Radner led a roll call vote. All attending commissioners voted "aye." The motion carried 5-0.

3. Continued Applications

3.1. (ITEM ADDED 2/17/22) Prett Terrace – MSMP 2022-02 – New Single-Family Dwelling

Applicant: Giorgio Petruzzello, Supreme Development

Representative: Mike Carter, GCG Associates

John Getherall, representative for the project, gave an update. He stated Mike Carter had met with Elissa Brown to discuss her questions on the plans. Agent Brown confirmed, but stated she is not yet comfortable with the proposed design. In particular, she would like to know the depth to groundwater, which would be determined with test pits.

Mr. Getherall also stated Mr. Petruzzello visited the site, but the frost was too thick to dig test pits. Therefore, he requested the Commission reconsider a waiver of the requirement to complete test pits prior to permit approval.

Commissioner Radner noted that this item was added to the agenda late and the Commission cannot officially vote on any requests at this meeting. Mr. Getherall understood and requested an unofficial indication whether the Commission would be willing to grant the waiver.

Commissioner Radner stated she was not comfortable with waiving the test pit requirement. Agent Brown stated that she had spoken with a few professionals and doesn't believe test pits are impossible at this time of year, though they may require a different equipment. Commissioner Gauthier and DeAvila agreed that, based on their experience, test pits could likely be completed, though Commissioner Gauthier noted he was amenable to the waiver to begin with.

Commissioner Radner stated that, based on the comments, the Commission would likely not grant the waiver, but she offered to have someone from the Conservation Department meet Mr. Petruzzello on site to view the challenges in person. Mr. Getherall asked if the Commission would accept one test pit prior to approval, with the test pit in the driveway to follow prior to construction to prevent destruction of the driveway. Agent Brown noted there was room adjacent to the driveway to complete the test pit. Mr. Getherall understood and stated he would pass the information to Mr. Petruzzello.

4. Minutes – 2/3/2022

Commissioner Radner **motioned to approve the minutes with edits she submitted via email.**

Commissioner DeAvila seconded. Commissioner Radner led a roll call vote. All attending commissioners voted "aye." The motion carried 5-0.

5. Agent's Report

5.1. Draft Resident Stormwater Brochure; Option 1 and Option 2

The Commission generally stated they were in favor of the version with the simpler verbiage in the flow chart.

Commissioner Radner commented that patios are not specifically called out in the flow chart. She also noted that there may be words other than "fill" that describe soil activities that should be included in the flow chart. After discussion, Agent Brown agreed to add the words "regrading" and "patios" to the flow chart.

- 5.2.** Agent Brown reminded the Commission that expiring positions are currently posted. Applications are due between March 3 and March 14. She encouraged Commissioners to reapply and/or encourage people they know to apply.
- 5.3.** Agent Brown stated the DEP's Circuit Rider has offered to attend Conservation Commission meetings to deliver trainings and topic discussions. She asked that Commissioners let her know of any topics of interest.
- 5.4.** Agent Brown reminded the Commission that the MACC Annual meeting will be in the spring. She asked that any Commissioners interested in workshops or trainings contact her for registration.
- 5.5.** Agent Brown reminded the Commission of her past question about whether the Commission meetings should be broadcast by Dedham TV or via Facebook Live. She stated Dedham TV informed her that they may not be able to broadcast meetings live, but would always be available to tape them. She also suggested Facebook Live could be a good way to directly deliver meetings to the public. She asked for feedback from the Commissioners. After discussion, the Commissioners generally agreed that the current method of making meetings available was working well and no changes were needed.

Commissioner Gauthier **motioned to adjourn**. Commissioner DeAvila seconded. All attending commissioners voted "aye." The motion carried 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.