

**Town of Webster
Conservation Commission
Minutes of the Meeting – April 23, 2018**

Attending: Commissioners – Joe Kunkel, Fred Bock, Beau Saad and Michelle Sherillo, Klarissa Johnson and Tyler.

Staff – Mary Overholt, Conservation Agent

Absent: Commissioners – Dave Audette

Meeting called to order: 5:43 p.m.

Location: Basement Conference Room

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Minutes

Ms. Sherillo motioned to approve the minutes from March 26. Mr. Bock second. Vote all in favor. Mr. Bock motioned to approve the minutes from April 9. Ms. Sherillo second. Vote all in favor.

Request for Determination of Applicability

3 Bates Grove Rd. – The applicant would like to remove 11 trees. He will just remove them and the stumps will remain. Ms. Sherillo thinks it is a lot of trees. The applicant noted that 3-4 of the trees are close to the house and they dump a lot of pine needles on the deck. Some of the trees are dying. This will improve the view of the Lake. There will still be a bunch of trees on the lot. Mr. Bock would like to see a few native shrubs installed. Ms. Overholt should e-mail him a list of native plants. Mr. Bock motioned to issue a negative Determination of Applicability for 3 Bates Grove Rd. for the removal of 11 trees which will be replaced with 11 shrubs or trees. Ms. Overholt should inspect when the work is complete. Ms. Sherillo is concerned that we do not set of precedent of just removing trees for view improvement. Mr. Saad second. Vote 3 in favor. Ms. Sherillo was opposed. Conditions were stumps to remain, 11 replacement plantings, and Ms. Overholt will inspect after the plantings are done. Plants that don't survive need to be replaced.

243 Thompson Rd. – Mr. Saad abstained for a conflict of interest. This project was for reroofing a house. Trash will be removed daily. Mrs. Sherillo motioned to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 243 Thompson Rd. Mr. Bock second. Vote all in favor. Mr. Saad abstained.

2 Checkerberry Island – Mr. Balcewicz was representing the applicant. This project is for the construction of exterior stairs. The brush that was next to the wetland should have been removed and the spill kit needs to be located. The applicant noted that it will be inside the garage that is built. The Spill kit and size of kit needs to be noted on the plan. They are going to use one with a 5 gallon bucket. Will National Grid have a spill kit in their vehicle? They will remove the brush before this project is started. Mr. Balcewicz will call the Board to let them know when spill kit is there and brush removed. Mr. Saad motioned to issue a Negative Determination of Applicability for 2 Checkerberry Island with the conditions that the brush is removed and spill kit on site and inspection before the work starts. Mr. Bock second. Vote all in favor.

Notice of Intent

Amended Order of Conditions 33 Wakefield Ave. DEP # 323-1094 continued from April 9. Ms. Sherillo stated that she has a conflict of interest because she is an abutter. They would like to install stairs

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instead of a sandy area near the Lake edge which had been on the original plans. The footing for the retaining wall will remain. They are opening the wall and providing a wider set of stairs. The Spill kit is on the plan. The first stair out of the water will be a big step. The existing stairs will be removed. The last three stairs will be left as is. The bottom two stairs will be removed. The confusion at the site visit is that the homeowner was confused about where the footing actually is at the bottom. The footing below the retaining wall will not be touched. The stairs will be widened on either side. Mr. Saad motioned to amend the Order of conditions to include the widened stairs with the stipulation that the lower footing is not to be cut or disturbed. The Commission will visit the site once the stairs are removed before the new stairs are installed. They should apply for a Chapt. 91 permit for their dock. Mr. Bock second. Vote all in favor. Ms. Sherillo abstained.

53 Wawela Park – continued from April 9. This is for work on an existing wall. They would like to take the caps off and lift off blocks and level them because they are tipping toward the Lake. Mr. Teugis is representing the applicant. A turbidity curtain and oil boom should be deployed and spill kit on site. The end of the wall is washed out. Chairman Kunkel suggests putting down marafa paper and regrading. Mr. Bock says to tighten the end block to prevent the erosion. They will start as soon as possible. Ms. Sherillo motioned to close the public hearing. Mr. Bock second. Vote all in favor. Ms. Sherillo motioned to issue an Order of Conditions for 53 Wawela Park with the above-mentioned conditions. Mr. Bock second. Vote all in favor. There is no DEP number so this is contingent upon receipt of a DEP number.

Bigelow Rd. Solar Project– Continued from April 9 because there was no DEP file number. Mr. Krevosky was representing the applicant. The DEP has issued a number now and had several comments. They say that the Soil depth should be specified under the panels. The soil will be a minimum of four inches. The fescue is for under the panels not in the restoration area. Another comment from DEP is that restoration does not usually include picking up trash and debris because vegetation can grow it would not be considered degraded. Mr. Kunkel felt this this was more useful. The Commission could ask that they do more work in the gravel pit. Mr. Kunkel asked if the Commission is happy with the plans as is, or would like to follow DEP's advice about riverfront improvements. The Commission was generally happy with the current plans.

DEP asked "Why was the northern land not used?" The applicant noted that there is construction debris and tree stumps buried on that section. Other debris is buried there too, although it is not contaminated. But they did not want to get involved in cleaning it up. Solar panels cannot sit on 9 ft. of fill. They shrunk the area of the panels because of the fill.

The DEP had questions about the choice of plantings since Fac wet plants are suggested for an upland area. Mr. Krevosky noted that Fac wet plants will grow in uplands 1/3 of the time. That is why he suggested the plants that he did. He wanted to provide a lot of diversity and mast berries. The Commission wondered if the wetland plants provide a better food source for wildlife? Mr. Krevosky noted that the best were probably the Winterberry in and Highbush blueberry. He will keep those in and change the rest.

DEP asked "What is the density of the invasive species?" Mr. Krevosky thought the area was maybe 70% Invasives. The trees near the pool that were slated to be removed, they could keep, all except the pine tree which also causes shading in the winter. They will keep the corral area mowed. What do they do with the grass clippings? Mr. Krevosky will check on that. Mr. Saad motioned to close the public hearing Ms. Sherillo second. Vote all in favor.

Conditions that should be included in an Order are as follows. The Compost area and spill kit should be marked on the plan. All debris to be removed from the site including Riverfront area debris. The plans

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should also be updated with new plantings and fewer trees being cut, that the corral area is to be moved. They should include the mowing protocol with the August 1 date which was e-mailed. The trees not being cut in an isolated wetland can be trimmed. 4 inches of topsoil under the panels will be noted on the plan. There will be a 6 inch gap between the fence and the ground to allow for wildlife to move freely throughout the project. Mr. Kunkel motioned to issue an Order of Conditions for the Bigelow Rd. Solar Project with the above-mentioned conditions. Ms. Sherillo second. Vote all in favor.

Mr. Krevosky noted on a different issue that Mill Pond should have had an Order to Conditions to be drained the way it is.

0 Wakefield – This was continued from March 26. The applicant brought what he thought was proof that the stream is not perennial. It was the USGS map which does not show the stream on the map. He had new plans. Ms Sherillo noted that it was not proof that it was not perennial. They have come up with new plans and moved it slightly and have added some plantings. The applicant wanted to know “What is a good distance to have the house from the wetland?” A Commissioner asked if we could approve the second house which is not as contentious. The issue is still partly whether it is a perennial stream or not. Mr. Saad motioned to continue the hearing to June 4. Ms. Sherillo second. Vote all in favor.

Mike Hopkins gave a progress report on the ramp for the Indian Princess. The portadam is down and the ramp is in. They will come for an amendment for the restaurant to put a swale in. He has to mitigate the fill that was put in the Lake as part of the ramp process. His lawyer thought we should sign the extension that was issued by the DEP.

The Commission decided that in general pergolas should be treated though an RDA.

The Commission would like to work on a tree cutting policy for vista improvement.

The Commission would also like to work on Setbacks. Ms. Sherillo asked people to e-mail their ideas separately.

Mr. Saad needs to send a letter asking to remain on the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Documents

Site Plan for JD & D Construction Lot 4 Wakefield Ave. Jalbert Engineering Inc., 3/29/18
Site Plan for JD & D Construction Lot 3 Wakefield Ave. Jalbert Engineering Inc., 3/29/18
Site Improvement Plan 33 Wakefield Ave. BC Engineering, 3/26/2018

Next Meeting Date: May 21, 2018 Basement Conference Room

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Overholt
Conservation Agent

Conservation Commission Approval: _____


Chairman

Date: 6-4-18