

## **Newburyport Conservation Commission**

October 18, 2016

Senior/Community Center Board Room

Minutes

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Joe Teixeira called a meeting of the Newburyport Conservation Commission to order at 6:45 p.m.

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Steve Moore, Paul Healy, David Vine, Dan Warchol, Doug Muir, Dan Bourdeau and Joe Teixeira. Julia Godtfredsen was also in attendance.

### **3. Minutes**

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 meeting as amended. David Vine seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **4. Plum Island Updates**

Bill Sargent and Ethan Cohen discussed the information about the movement of sand on the island that has been gained through drone photography. They said the Commission would be able to save money by eliminating the trips in the summer months, when there is not much activity. They also described the type of information that can be compiled from the photographs due to new technology and software. They said the Commission might eliminate the photographs taken on the basin side of the island and use the money saved to acquire more technical information on the ocean side. The Commission members must decide if this type of information would be useful. They asked Mr. Sargent and Mr. Cohen to provide a proposal.

### **5. Certificates of Compliance, Requests for Determinations, Requests for Minor Modifications**

#### **MassDOT**

Whittier Bridge/I-95

Request for Minor Modification

DEP File #051-0875

During the construction of the northbound bridge, MassDOT and the contractor began to give more consideration to the erosion of the slope under the bridge and the protection of the salt marsh. They became concerned the scuppers would wash out the loam and seed planted beneath them. In order for the slope to be stable over the long term, they are proposing that a stone-filled swale be installed under the scuppers in front of the south abutment. The applicant will submit a video taken from a drone of the slope under the bridge after the work has been completed.

Doug Muir moved to approve the minor modification with the conditions the dimensions and configuration of the stone swale shall be adjusted if necessary after review and approval by the Commission to insure the riverfront area slope and adjacent saltmarsh are protected from erosion and the Commission shall be notified prior to the commencement of the work and after its completion. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. A site visit will take on place on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 8:00 a.m.

## **6. Public Hearings**

Doug Muir moved to open the public hearings. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Ronald Guertin, Carr Island, LLC**

386 Merrimac Street

#### **Notice of Intent**

Bill Decie represented the applicant, who is proposing to install four concrete blocks to anchor two new twenty-five foot floats. The floats would be accessed from a new thirty-two foot gangway that will be attached to the existing bulkhead. A four-foot wide utility trench that extends 281 feet from the building to the river was constructed without a permit. The trench was located in a disturbed area within the 100-foot buffer zone and has been backfilled. The Notice of Intent was revised to include this work after the fact. A sewer line was installed in the trench. The applicant intends to add a seasonal pump-out facility to the end of the floats. The pump-out facility is not included in the current applicant and further permitting would be needed.

Steve Moore moved to close the public hearing. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **7. Orders of Conditions**

### **Ronald Guertin, Carr Island, LLC**

386 Merrimac Street

Paul Healy moved to issue an Order of Condition with the special condition that all appropriate State and local permits must be received before any installed sewer and electrical lines may be used and the floats may not be installed until the Harbormaster has issued the necessary 10A permits. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

## **8. New Business**

### **Hydrant Flushing at Moseley Woods**

Joe Teixeira reported serious erosion has resulted from the flushing of the hydrants on Water Department property. The roots of several large trees have been exposed. Soil must be added around the roots as soon as possible. Julia Godtfredsen will visit the site with Wayne Amaral and Dan Lynch to discuss the mitigation. The hydrants are flushed into the river twice annually. A discussion must also take place on the use of best management practices to prevent this from reoccurring. The Commission might wish to develop a protocol for the flushing of hydrants in resource areas.

## **9. Adjournment**

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. David Vine seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.