

## **Newburyport Conservation Commission**

October 20, 2015

City Hall Auditorium

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 Joe Teixeira, David Vine, Paul Healy, Dan Warchol, Doug Muir, Dan Bourdeau and Steve Moore.

### **3. Minutes**

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2015 meeting as submitted. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **4. Old and New Business**

#### **Drone Photography for Plum Island**

Ethan Cohen submitted quotes for photographing Plum Island from a drone. The quotes were for photographs of ten locations taken on four trips per year with an option for two, four or six additional trips after storms. Four scheduled and two additional trips would cost \$9,900. The quotes were significantly more expensive than the Commission members expected. The scope of work might yield more data than would be required. The quotes included a video, the elimination of which would reduce the cost by approximately 50%. The members will request a revised quote for four trips per year with two additional trips and with no video. They also will request that the photographs not be made available to others without their permission.

#### **UFP Technologies**

100 Hale Street

Informal Discussion

Scott Cameron said a new company has acquired the former Cabot Stain site and wishes to expand the facility. Parking would be added at the front of the property and the rear of the structure would be expanded to house equipment. The property is bounded on three sides by wetlands. The applicant wishes to alter 1,100 square feet within the 25-foot no disturb zone and expects to request a variance. A small green roof might be installed to fulfill the public benefit requirement.

#### **Amanda Thorpe**

23 Everett Drive

Tom Hughes represented the applicant, who removed approximately 20 trees from within the 100-foot buffer zone of the BVW without permission. Mr. Hughes had prepared a planting plan for the area but the applicant does not wish to proceed with this work. Instead she is proposing to install 20 seedlings from the Arbor Day Foundation. These seedlings would be less than one foot tall.

The Commission members were concerned about the survival of trees of this size. They requested that the replacement trees be no less than four to six feet in height. Mr. Hughes will submit a final

planting list to the Conservation Administrator. The trees would be planted either this fall or the following spring and the work to control the invasive species will be ongoing.

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

**Dwight C. Brown and Donamarie Casey**

216 Northern Boulevard

Request for Determination of Applicability

Commission members visited the site and said the work that is being proposed is acceptable.

The area that is to be disturbed is currently lawn or gravel. In addition to the work that has been proposed, a walkway would be removed and replaced with plant materials. The applicant must submit a revised landscape plan. A permit will not be issued until the non-compliant fence has been modified. A Notice of Violation will be issued if action on the fence is not taken before the next meeting.

Doug Muir moved to continue the request to the first meeting in November. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Newburyport Waterfront Trust**

22 Merrimac Street

Request for Determination of Applicability

Steve Sawyer represented the applicant, who is proposing to improve a parking lot on the waterfront. The existing traffic island would be reconfigured and curbing would be installed for an additional island. At the October 6 meeting the Commission members requested that information be provided on the grade of the lowest level of soil to be removed and that the drainage pattern be examined to determine if openings could be added to the curbing to allow water to enter the planting bed. Mr. Sawyer said because the island would be at the high point of the lot, its use for stormwater treatment would not be possible. He also said he received boring information from Jon-Eric White and does not expect to encounter any contaminated material.

Doug Muir moved to issue a Negative 2 Determination. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Verne Fisher, Visionary Landscapes**

10 55<sup>th</sup> Street

Request for Certificate of Compliance

Julia Godtfredsen visited the site and reported the work was done in accordance with the approved plan. Paul Healy moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Paul Piriano**

17 J Street

Request for Minor Modification

DEP File #051-0951

Tom Hughes represented the applicant, who wishes to remove a willow tree that is located close to the structure and is in poor health. The applicant is now the owner of the property. The area from which the willow is to be removed would be replanted with native vegetation.

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Paul Healy moved to accept the change as a minor modification. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**6. Public Hearings**

Dan Warchol moved to open the public hearings. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**7 Harbor St. Development**

LLC 7 Harbor Street

Notice of Intent

DEP has not yet issued a file number. Doug Muir moved to continue the public hearing to the first meeting in November. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Joseph G. Hill, 2 Parker Street Realty Trust**

2 Parker Street

Notice of Intent

Mark West and Ed Hill described the plans to construct two single-family houses within the buffer zone of a BVW. Access to both homes would be achieved through a single crossing of a swale that runs along the front of the property and is owned by the City. Phragmites and loosestrife are growing in the swale. The applicant is proposing to remove the soil from the swale and add loam and a wetlands mix. As mitigation for the crossing of the wetland, the applicant is proposing to widen the swale. The Commission members said they would like the boundaries of the buffer zone to be permanently delineated. They requested the applicant provide a construction sequence for the replication area and information on the contents of the seed mix. They also wish to receive a signed document indicating the City has approved the details of the work to be done on its property. A DEP file number has not yet been received.

Paul Healy moved to continue the public hearing to the first meeting in November. Steve Moore seconded the motion. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

**7. Orders of Conditions**

None

**8. Other Business**

The November 3 meeting will be cancelled due to the election. The next meeting will be rescheduled for Wednesday, November 4.

**9. Adjournment**

Steve Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.