

Newburyport Conservation Commission
January 15, 2019
Senior Community Center, 331 High Street
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, Steve Moore, Paul Healy, Doug Muir and David Vine. Dan Warchol and Dan Bourdeau were absent. Conservation Administrator Julia Godtfredsen was also in attendance.

3. Minutes

Steve Moore moved to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018, meeting as submitted. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Certificates of Compliance, Requests for Determinations, Requests for Minor Modifications

Henry Louis Miller

11 61st Street

Request for Minor Modification

An Order of Conditions was issued in 2018 for the construction of a single-family home on pilings. The applicant is proposing to change the size of the side deck from 6'-0" to 11'-6", an increase of 50 square feet. Concrete tiles have been removed from the location in which the deck would be constructed and the area is currently sandy and unvegetated. Steve Moore moved to approve the Request for Minor Modification with the condition the applicant shall plant an additional 50 square feet of native species in an area that is currently unvegetated. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Old and New Business

City of Newburyport

Phase 3 Rail Trail/Parker Street

Informal Discussion

Andy Port and Geordie Vining described the plans for the extension of the Rail Trail along Parker Street. To the east of Hines Way, the trail would be located in the narrow public right-of-way, where currently located are constructed drainage swales. It is being proposed that the swales would be converted to a closed drainage system, with the trail running on top of it. While the design of the drainage system has not yet been developed, the city engineer Jon-Eric White has indicated it would be possible for the sheet flow from the intermittent stream and the housing development to be channeled into the underground pipe system, allowing the water to maintain its current flow. The Commission members determined a Notice of Intent, and not an RDA, should be filed.

Plum Island Erosion

Some Plum Island residents are requesting that State and local officials allow the placement of a concrete block wall along Reservation Terrace. DEP has indicated such a wall would not be allowed. The removal of sand and vegetation that would be necessary to construct the wall would damage the dune. An alternate plan to address the erosion in this area must be developed. This might involve the continual addition of sand.

3-5 Collins Farm Road

The language of the conservation restriction for 3-5 Collins Farm Road has been finalized and the Commission members signed the document.

39 Harbor Street

Informal Discussion

The property owner asked to be on the agenda to discuss plans for a proposed addition but did not attend the meeting.

Plum Island Homeowners Guide

The amount of text in the guide will be reduced in order to allow a larger font to be used.

Plum Island Fencing Guidelines

Fence guidelines

The fence guidelines have been finalized and will be added to the website.

Land Subject to Coastal Storm Flowage

Julia Godtfredsen revised the draft regulations for land subject to coastal storm flowage in accordance with comments the Commission members made at the previous meeting. The draft regulations must be presented at a public hearing. A change to the ordinance would not be required.

6. Public Hearings

None

7. Orders of Conditions

None

8. Enforcement

Julia Godtfredsen will contact Tom Hughes regarding 5 Basin Street.

9. Adjournment

Doug Muir moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.