

Newburyport Conservation Commission

January 6, 2015

City Council Chambers

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, Doug Muir, Dan Warchol, Jim O'Brien, David Vine, Paul Healy and Steve Moore. Julia Godtfredsen was also in attendance.

3. Minutes

Steve Moore moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2014 meeting as amended. Jim O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Old and New Business

Colby Farm 61A Notice

The City received notice that the owner of 2.919 acres of agricultural land at 183 Low Street has received an offer to purchase the property. The City has the right of first refusal for this land, otherwise known as Lot 8, and has 120 days to respond. The City might be interested in acquiring the lot behind it, Lot 1, for playing fields, although that lot is not yet for sale. Lot 8 has value to the Commission as open space and wildlife habitat. It would also provide access to Lot 1 if the City were to acquire this property at a later date.

Steve Moore moved to support the acquisition by the City of Lot 8 for its open space value and its potential access to Lot 1. Jim O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

Mark Batchelder

5-11 Plum Island Turnpike

Request for Certificate of Compliance

DEP File #051-0765

A revised letter from an engineer was submitted as had been requested at the December 16, 2014 meeting. The Commission had previously approved all of the deviations from the original plan. Doug Muir moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6 to 0 vote with Paul Healy abstaining.

6. Public Hearings

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

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Mark Wojcicki, Wojcicki Holdings, LLC

143A State Street

Notice of Intent

DEP File #051-0926

The applicant requested a continuance. Dan Warchol moved to continue the public hearing to January 20, 2015. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Joshua Holden, Massachusetts Electric Company

95 Water Street

Notice of Intent

The applicant requested a continuance. Steve Moore moved to continue the public hearing to January 20, 2015. Jim O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Elizabeth Baumann

21 Shore Street

Notice of Intent

DEP File #051-0917

Tom Hughes represented the applicant and reviewed alternatives that were considered for this site, along with soft solutions that have been used in other locations around the state. In the plan he presented, a wall would be installed below grade and covered with sand and vegetation. A small toe of riprap with sand tubes would also be installed and riprap would be placed at the base of the wall. Mr. Hughes said he believes the solution would protect both the home and the adjacent saltmarsh. A marsh shelf would be created, which has been used successfully in other parts of the state. He will obtain additional information on the saltmarsh mat and the organic material that would be needed.

Site visits were scheduled for Sunday, January 11 at 10:00 a.m. and Monday, Jan 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Steve Moore moved to continue the public hearing to January 20, 2015. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

7. Adjournment

Steve Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on January 20, 2015.