

## **Newburyport Conservation Commission**

March 17, 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, Steve Moore, David Vine and Paul Healy. Conservation Agent Julia Godtfredsen was also in attendance.

### **3. Minutes**

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2015 meeting as submitted. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **4. MRBA Meeting Update**

David Vine provided an overview on the items that were discussed at the meeting: work to repair the north jetty is scheduled to begin in May; the MRBA will submit a comment letter to a statewide coastal erosion committee that is looking into ways the regulations might be improved to better address coastal erosion; and plans to use sand dredged from the Piscataqua River on Plum Island are slowly moving forward.

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

None

### **6. Public Hearings**

Steve Moore moved to open the public hearings. Paul Healy seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

#### **Joshua Holden, Massachusetts Electric Company**

95 Water Street

Notice of Intent

DEP File #051-0927

David Vine recused himself from the discussion. Melissa Kaplan summarized the details of the plan to install flood protection measures at the substation. Timber wood walls would be installed in the gaps in the Hesco bags when a flood event is anticipated. The walls would replace the Hesco bags that had been previously proposed for closing the gap. This revision to the plans would remove the need for a permanent storage area for the Hesco bags on the site. A landscaping plan for the vegetation that would screen the Hesco bags was submitted. The applicant had previously submitted a letter from a certified engineer stating the flood protection project would not result in wave impacts to abutting properties or increased flood levels outside the barrier. City Engineer Jon-Eric White also reviewed the plans and approved the project.

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Representatives for the applicant met twice with Mayor Holaday to discuss the condition of the seawall on the property. The applicant submitted a letter giving assurances the seawall would be rebuilt.

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

**Lycott Environmental**

Bartlett Spring Pond □

Request for Extension of Order of Conditions

DEP File #051-0689

The Order of Conditions included a perpetual condition for the removal of nuisance vegetation. The Department of Watershed Management issues a permit every three years for the ongoing work and requires that the Order of Conditions be extended. Paul Healy moved to extend the Order of Conditions for three years. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Francis J. O'Hare, Jr.**

4 70<sup>th</sup> Street □

Notice of Intent

Kristen Farrell represented the applicant, who wishes to add a first floor addition for accessibility purposes. The addition would measure six feet by ten feet and would be eight feet high. A ramp would eventually be added at the rear of the structure but was included in the application. The ramp would be temporary with no support structure in the ground. The applicant will add the footprint of the ramp to the plan and the revised plan will be added to the file.

Paul Healy moved to close the public hearing. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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

**7. Orders of Conditions**

**Joshua Holden, Massachusetts Electric Company**

95 Water Street

Paul Healy moved to issue an Order of Conditions. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved with David Vine abstaining.

**Francis J. O'Hare, Jr.**

4 70<sup>th</sup> Street □

Paul Healy moved to issue an Order of Conditions with the conditions that 1) any dune grass damaged during construction shall be replaced; 2) the construction material shall be stockpiled on the existing gravel driveway or other unvegetated area; 3) no lattice or other enclosure shall be installed around the base of the new addition and the area below the addition shall remain completely open; 4) a revised plan indicating the location of the proposed ramp shall be submitted and 5) if the propane tank must be relocated it shall be placed on a concrete pad in an

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unvegetated or minimally vegetated area that is immediately adjacent to the structure and any vegetation displaced shall be replaced with American beach grass elsewhere on the site. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**8. Old and New Business**

Joe Teixeira will attend a meeting on the City's strategy to acquire property at the Colby Farm.

**9. Adjournment**

Steve Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on April 7, 2015.