

## **Newburyport Conservation Commission**

April 16, 2013

City Council Chambers

Minutes

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

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

### **2. Roll Call**

In attendance were members Joe Teixeira, Paul Healy, Steve Moore, Dan Warchol, Doug Muir and Mary Casey. Also in attendance was Julia Godtfredsen.

### **3. Minutes**

The approval of the minutes of the April 2, 2013 meeting was deferred.

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

#### **Bartlet Mall Commission**

Bartlet Mall Five-year Management Plan

Request for Extension and Minor Amendment

DEP File #051-0679

Walt Thompson said the Bartlet Mall Commission would like to amend the Order of Conditions for its five-year management plan to allow for the implementation of new or alternative technologies for controlling invasive species and algae. Phosphorus is often responsible for algae blooms and an analysis of the water in the Frog Pond has indicated the phosphorus level is extremely high. Jon Higgins has developed a system called the P-Pod that captures phosphorus and removes it from water bodies, which should result in a reduction of the amount of algae blooms. The amendment would allow the Bartlet Mall Commission to proceed with a pilot demonstration of the P-Pod system. The pilot demonstration would be used as the basis for a cost estimate and scope of work for a large-scale removal of phosphorous at the Frog Pond. The data from the demonstration would be analyzed and submitted to the Commission. Arsenic has been found in the sediment in the pond. The P-Pod would be useful in removing this as well as the phosphorus. The Bartlet Mall Commission has also requested a five-year extension of its permit that would otherwise expire in July 2014.

Steve Moore moved to approve the five-year permit extension. Mary Casey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Steve Moore moved to approve the minor amendment with the condition that the proposed new language in the management plan be changed from, "It is recommended that periodically new technologies and pilot projects be sought to address improving the water quality of the frog pond" to "The Bartlet Mall Commission may, with the written approval of the Conservation Commission, periodically test and/or implement new technologies or methods for improving the water quality of the frog pond, including but not limited to: the control of invasive species, nuisance algae, and contaminated sediments." Mary Casey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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**5. General Business**

**Plum Island Update**

Julia Godtfredsen said the Army Corp. has completed the first phase of the jetty work and the equipment has been removed. Snow fencing will be placed along the road near the dune to better define the public access in order that the dune grass might re-vegetate the area.

The Beach Management Committee is scheduled to meet on April 17 to discuss the opening of access to the beach at 53<sup>rd</sup>, 55<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> streets. The access at 57<sup>th</sup> Street will be closed indefinitely. Under a pilot program angled marked pathways onto beach will be created and new signage will be installed.

**Whittier Bridge**

Joe Teixeira said the access road for bridge has been constructed. He walked the site and noted that the location selected for the large detention appears to previously have been a detention basin. MassDOT is interested in building a pier in the vicinity of Spring Lane. Julia Godtfredsen said this would not constitute a minor amendment and the approval of the plan by the Commission would be necessary. The Order of Conditions requires that the Commission determine if an amendment for any change to the plans is necessary. MassDOT left many construction details up to the contractor and new conditions might be necessary now that more specifics about the project are becoming available.

**Crow Lane Landfill**

Steve Moore said sediment is washing into the restored wetlands on Crow Lane. Julia Godtfredsen will contact Mary Rimmer.

**Newbury Solar Farm**

Joe Teixeira said he submitted comments to the Newbury selectman about the proposed solar farm, saying the farm is planned for a flood storage area for the Little River.

**6. Adjournment**

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.