

Newburyport Conservation Commission

May 7, 2013

City Council Chambers

Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

3. Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2013 meeting as amended. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2013 meeting as amended. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. General Business

Whittier Bridge Update

Julia Godtfredsen said the Massachusetts Highway Department plans to submit a request for an amendment to the Notice of Intent for the Whittier Bridge project. Under the amendment a pier would be installed near Spring Lane to provide access to the work area. The pier would be located on land owned by the Newburyport Water Department and would be situated over a new storm water outfall. It would create additional impacts to the wetland resource area and the contractor would be responsible for any mitigation required by the Commission. The proposed staging area is currently lawn. If the area were to be re-vegetated at the end of the project, a better buffer for the river might be provided. Steve Moore suggested that a portion of the 40-foot pier be retained at the completion of the construction, as this would help to protect the bank, which becomes trampled by fishermen.

Plum Island Updates

Julia Godtfredsen said the slats for biomimicry project have been ordered and the process for ordering the signage for the access areas has begun.

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

Tim Tracy

28 53rd Street

Request for Minor Amendment

DEP File #051-0860

The applicant requested he be allowed to add a sand bag on top of the existing bags along the frontal dune. Julia Godtfredsen that because the company that would perform the work was already in the area, she allowed the work to be done under the existing Order of Conditions with the condition that a Request for Minor Amendment be filed. Mr. Tracy said the bag has been added and the area has been re-graded and replanted. He said that since the jetty work commenced, sand has begun to accumulate in front of his property. Dan Warchol moved to approve the Request for Minor Amendment. Mary Casey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Michael's Harborside, Newburyport Manager

1 Tournament Wharf

Emergency Certification for Bulkhead Repair

Julia Godtfredsen said the steel plating on the bulkhead has corroded at the water line and the timber slats have been disrupted. Fill has washed out behind the bulkhead, which supports the outdoor deck, creating a safety hazard. She issued an Emergency Certification in order that the work to repair the problem might immediately begin. The work is being done from the parking lot. A Notice of Intent was submitted and the item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Paul Healy moved to approve the Emergency Certification. Mary Casey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. Adjournment

Paul Healy moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.