

Newburyport Conservation Commission

May 19, 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, Steve Moore, David Vine and Paul Healy.

3. Minutes

Paul Healy moved to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2015 meeting as submitted. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

4. Old and New Business

23 Everett Drive

Tom Hughes represented Amanda Thorpe, to whom a Negative 2 Determination was issued in 2014 for the removal of invasive vegetation within the 100-foot buffer zone of the BVW. The work was to have been done by hand and none of the trees or native vegetation was to be removed. Instead a contractor used a crane to remove approximately 20 trees. Mr. Hughes intends to submit a restoration plan for the next meeting. He would recommend a more effective method for removing the invasive species. He also would propose to plant shrubs in the place of the trees because he believes they would better resist the vines that grew on the site, although some small trees would be a part of the restoration plan. He would add herbaceous materials along the drainage lines. The Commission members would like markers to be installed along the wetland boundary.

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

Christopher Hein, Virginia Institute of Marine Science

Merrimack River, Joppa Flats □

Request for Determination of Applicability

The applicant is seeking to gain an understanding of the causes of erosion on Plum Island by researching the sources of sediment for the island. Joppa Flats would be used to create a proxy record of the sediment supply. The applicant is proposing to collect sediment in five locations in Joppa Flats. The 2.5" diameter piston cores would penetrate to a depth of two meters. Paul Healy moved to issue a Negative 2 Determination. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Geordie Vining, City of Newburyport

Clipper City Rail Trail, Phase 2
Request for Minor Modification
DEP File #051-0920

David Vine recused himself from the discussion. Ron Headrick of Stantec reviewed the changes to the stormwater management plan that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation required after the Order of Condition was issued. The leaching catch basins that were to be located between Parker Street and High Street would be eliminated or changed to catch basins. The chamber system would be changed to a corrugated perforated pipe system. Catch basins would replace the proprietary separators for TSS removal. Emergency overflow connections would be added in three locations. A crushed stone underdrain would be added along both sides of a portion of the trail. These changes would not result in additional impacts to any resource areas and would meet the stormwater BMPs. Paul Healy moved to accept the changes as a minor modification. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Timberline Enterprises

23 Low Street
Request for Certificate of Compliance
DEP File #051-0881

The item will be removed from the agenda until notice has been received that the work has been completed.

6. Public Hearings

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

Jim Straubb, Mass. DCR

Maudslay State Park Flowering Pond
Notice of Intent
DEP File #051-0931

Doug Muir said he would like someone to be on site when the pump is turned on to make sure the erosion control functions properly. Julia Godtfredsen is to be notified when work is to begin. Steve Moore moved to the close public hearing. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

7. Orders of Conditions

Doug Muir moved to issue an Order of Conditions with the special conditions that 1) an environmental monitor shall be on the site each day, 2) should the Commission or the environmental monitor determine that sedimentation controls are ineffective or not working as designed, all work shall stop until a revised sedimentation control plan is implemented, 3) the applicant shall document the conditions at the access points prior to construction and 4) any vegetation lost along the shoreline at the access points due to vehicles or construction equipment shall be replaced in kind prior to the completion of the project. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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8. Other Business

6 Perkins Way Peer Review Selection

The Commission members reviewed the proposals for the review of the wetlands at 6 Perkins Way that were received from Marc Jacobs, the Horsley Witten Group and Rimmer Environmental Consulting. Marc Jacobs and Mary Rimmer have both recently acted as peer reviewers for the Commission. The Commission members agreed that they like the experience of working with a variety of reviewers. Steve Moore moved to select the Horsley Witten Group as the peer reviewer for 6 Perkins Way. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Plum Island Update

Julia Godtfredsen said Ron Barrett, Doug Packer and Kevin Mooney are combining their efforts to monitor erosion on Plum Island. They recently installed 32 stakes between the refuge and the south jetty. Greg Moore had extra beach grass from a dune restoration project in Newbury. Fourth-grade volunteers will plant the beach grass in the two biomimicry areas in Newburyport.

9. Adjournment

Steve Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Doug Muir seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved. The next meeting of the Conservation Commission will be held on June 2, 2015.