

Newburyport Conservation Commission
January 16, 2024
Online Meeting
Minutes

1. Call to Order

Chair Joe Teixeira called a remote meeting of the Newburyport Conservation Commission to order at 6:45 p.m.

2. Roll Call

In attendance were members Joe Teixeira, David Vine, Carole Wagan, Steve Moore and Bill Mullen. Dan Warchol and Charlie Aloviseti were absent. Conservation Administrator Julia Godtfredsen was also in attendance.

3. Minutes

Steve Moore moved to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2024, meeting. David Vine seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 4-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, absent; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).

4. Old and New Business

Plum Island Updates

The next MRBA meeting is scheduled for February 2.

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

Daniel Sweeney

152 Northern Boulevard

Request for Determination of Applicability

The applicant requested a continuance. Steve Moore moved to continue the matter to the February 6 meeting. Bill Mullen seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).

Cavan Dunn

3 O Street

Request for Certificate of Compliance

DEP File #051-1059

The application submitted as-built plans, which deviated slightly from the approved plans. The western deck was extended six feet to the south to improve the safety of the egress from the stairway. In order to meet building code requirements, the stairs on the eastern deck were reconfigured and raised platforms for the air condition units were added to the south side of the structure.

Steve Moore moved to issue a Certificate of Compliance for 3 O Street. Carole Wagan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).

6. Public Hearings

Carole Wagan moved to open the public hearings. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).

Meredith Moses

8 Jefferson Court

Notice of Intent

DEP File #051-1077

Evin Guvendiren represented the applicant. The Commission members visited the site on January 10. The entire property is located within the buffer zone and the 100-foot riverfront zone. The applicant is proposing to construct a garage on the street side of a single-family house. The entryway and driveway would be configured and new pathways would be added. The existing deck at the rear of the structure would be replaced with a new deck on a larger footprint and a new stairway would be added. The existing raised planting bed would be replaced with a firepit. Highbush blueberry plants would be added to the top of the seawall. Three damaged or diseased trees would be removed and replaced with three white cedars.

Steve Moore commented that not all of the proposed plant materials are native species and one in particular has been reported as being poisonous to dogs and cats. Ms. Guvendiren responded that the non-native species would be located as far from the resource area as possible and would be a part of the landscaped area of the site. They would not be a part of the restoration area. Julia Godtfredsen said more native plants would be installed than currently exist on the site and the conditions would be improved.

Steve Moore moved to close the public hearing. Carole Wagan seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).

Steve Moore moved to close the public hearings. David Vine seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).

7. Enforcement/Violations

None

8. Order of Conditions

Meredith Moses

8 Jefferson Court

DEP File #051-1077

Steve Moore moved to issue an Order of Conditions for 8 Jefferson Court with the special conditions that the plant materials shall be monitored for two years and replaced as necessary to achieve 75% survival and an updated landscaping plan shall be submitted to the Commission if any changes are made to the plant materials prior to or during construction. Bill Mullen

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seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).

9. Other Business

- The March 5 meeting will be cancelled due to the presidential primary election.
- Julia Godtfredsen is interested in obtaining a drone and being trained on its use. Andy Port agreed the drone would be useful in documenting existing conditions.

10. Adjournment

Carole Wagan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 5-0 vote (David Vine, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Bill Mullen, yes).