

Newburyport Conservation Commission
March 21, 2023
Online Meeting
Minutes

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

3. Minutes

Carole Wagan moved to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023, meeting. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 6-0 vote (Bill Mullen, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Charlie Aloviseti, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Dan Warchol, yes; David Vine, abstain).

4. Old and New Business

Plum Island Updates

An extension to April 30 was granted for the dredging project. A new dredge will be arriving on site shortly. Equipment related to the piping of sand is being assembled in the parking lot.

Councilor Zeid is assisting with the preparation of the beach management plan. DCR has determined that the MEPA process must be followed and a barrier beach management plan would be required.

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

US Fish and Wildlife Service, Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Various Coastal Locations

Request for Determination of Applicability

Liana DiNunzio described the ongoing efforts to stop the spread of pepperweed in the Great Marsh and Newburyport by eradicating the invasive plant along waterways and roadways. A negative determination for the work had been issued in 2020 and will expire this year. The plant grows along brackish and salt water, on the banks of tidal creeks, along roadsides and in dunes. It can spread easily several miles in one season by wind and water.

The plant will be removed mechanically in some areas by being hand pulled. The plant material will be bagged and disposed of in an incinerator. In larger areas, the invasive will be sprayed with a herbicide. The workers will adhere to the instructions on the label of the herbicide and will not apply it when there is high wind or rain or during high tides. The work

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areas will be accessed by foot or boat and will include private properties where permission is granted. Of the 3,000 sites in the Great Marsh, 43% are now clear.

Steve Moore moved to issue a Negative 2 Determination. Steve Moore seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Bill Mullen, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Charlie Aloviseti, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Dan Warchol, yes; David Vine, yes).

6. Public Hearings

None

7. Enforcement/Violations

None

8. Order of Conditions

None

9. Other Business

Julia Godtfredsen said she met on site with Chris Skiba of New England Development. A Chapter 91 license is needed for its project sites. He is to provide written documentation that work to obtain the license is underway.

10. Adjournment

Steve Moore moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Dan Warchol seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote (Bill Mullen, yes; Joe Teixeira, yes; Steve Moore, yes; Charlie Aloviseti, yes; Carole Wagan, yes; Dan Warchol, yes; David Vine, yes).