



Approved February 14, 2023

Town of Duxbury Conservation Commission

Minutes of January 17, 2023

TOWN CLERK
2023 APR 21 AM 10:17
DUXBURY, MASS.

The Duxbury Conservation Commission met in person in the Town Hall Mural Room on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Robb D'Ambruoso, Chair; Scott Zoltowski, Vice Chair; Thomas Gill, III; Sam Butcher; Corey Wisneski, Mickey McGonagle; and Holly Morris

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Nancy Rufo, Conservation Administrator; Debbie Ballem, Principal Assistant

Meeting was called to order by Chair, Robb D'Ambruoso at 7:00 p.m. He introduced seated Commission members.

Nancy Rufo explained due to legal notice posting requirements, tonight's meeting will consist of discussion only with motions being heard during a Zoom tomorrow (1/18/2023) at 1:00 p.m. The agenda with Zoom information can be found on the Town's website.

CONTINUED PUBLIC MEETING; O'CONNOR/SOUTH SHORE SURVEYCONSULTANTS; 44 ELDER BREWSTER RD.; POOL, POOL DECKING, POOL HOUSE SE18-2019

Nancy Rufo reported that the applicant has withdrawn the Notice of Intent for this proposed project. The proposed coverage was increased from 17.42% to 34.43% and there was already a discrepancy with the property being above the allowed coverage of 15%.

PUBLIC HEARING; TUCCIRONE/RIVER HAWK ENVIRONMENTAL; 5 DOGWOOD DRIVE; TREE CLEARING AND GRADING SE18-2023

Robb D'Ambruoso read the 5 Dogwood Drive Public Hearing Legal Notice. The applicant proposes to clear trees to create a yard 26.5 feet from bordering vegetated wetlands. Commission members noted they are familiar with the site and acknowledged property does not have a yard. Nancy Rufo stated the proposed project met Town's rules and regulations.

Holly Morris stated this site is saturated and tree removal may lead to other trees falling and causing problems for the homeowner. Mickey McGonagle inquired whether the tree removal policy would apply if activity occurred outside of the 25 feet. Sam Butcher raised concern regarding runoff being directed to and altering the wetlands. Mr. Butcher suggested continuing the discussion when the applicant and River Hawk Environmental could be present to explain how they intend to mitigate the water issue.

Nancy Rufo read comments from an abutter who wishes to remain anonymous. The abutter stated plans for the project do not accurately represent tree coverage. The abutter is concerned trees have already been removed for construction of the new home and three trees have fallen causing property damage. Sam Butcher stated that he would not consider an anonymous comment but would want to know how the applicant intends to mitigate the water issue. Scott Zoltowski stated although it was an anonymous comment, it raises the issue of whether the aerial view is accurate since the site was clear cut and a significant amount of trees have been cut down.

Sam Butcher made a motion, seconded by Corey Wisneski, to continue the public hearing on 5 Dogwood Drive to January 18, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. when the applicant and River Hawk Environmental could attend the Zoom meeting. Motion passed unanimously 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

Minutes for Approval: Regular Session: January 3, 2023

Scott Zoltowski requested a correction to the spelling of McGonagle on the January 3, 2023 meeting minutes.

Certificate of Compliance

SE18-656 Catani/Duxbury Construction; 1335 Tremont Street; septic

Nancy Rufo reported that she performed a site visit and confirmed that the septic was moved outside of the 100' buffer. Ms. Rufo recommends issuing a full Certificate of Compliance.

Duxbury Beach Reservation Project Update (Bradford Bower and Cris Luttazi)

Cris Luttazi and Bradford Bower of Duxbury Beach Reservation (DBR) presented updates on coastal flooding and stormwater management at Duxbury Beach. Completed projects include dune restoration at Plum Hills, the elevation of High Pines roadway, dune and beach restoration at Duxbury Beach Park, and cobble berm nourishment at Bayside. Ms. Luttazi noted that DBR worked with Woods Hole Group to develop nature-based solutions and no projects on Duxbury Beach involve hardscapes. It was noted that the sand and cobble mix is sourced from a site in Duxbury which decreases the carbon footprint of their projects. Next steps include continued maintenance, additional beach nourishments, and establishing a diverse variety of salt-tolerant plant species.

Tree Policy Update

Nancy Rufo confirmed that although everyone was given access to the Tree Policy online via Sharepoint, not everyone was actually able to open the document. Ms. Rufo will instead resend the draft policy and requested Commissioners make additions or changes individually. Debbie Ballem will then combine these into one document for final review and approval.

Envision Duxbury Action Plan Update

Commissioners reviewed action items assigned to Conservation and noted that some are ongoing or completed, while others would require funding. Nancy Rufo and Mickey McGonagle have a meeting with Chris Ryan as part of the Coastal Resiliency Task Force on Wednesday, January 18th and will ask for clarification on how to update the plan.

Project and Staffing Update

Nancy Rufo opened the discussion regarding continuing Joe Grady's position which is on a 3-month rotation. Ms. Rufo stated that Mr. Grady's contribution is invaluable and the position is funded through the fiscal year. Ms. Rufo recommended continuing the position for Joe Grady and reevaluating in three months. The Commissioners agreed with this staffing plan.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioners discussed how best to engage more productively and regularly with the Commission's Selectboard liaison, Amy McNabb, and suggested she be a recipient on future emails regarding Conservation Commission meetings and matters.

ADJOURNMENT: Mickey McGonagle made a motion, seconded by Thomas Gill, III, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously 7-0

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The next Conservation Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.