

Town of Westwood
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

John Rogers, Chairman
Stephen David
Vesna Maneva
Debra Odeh
Todd Sullivan
Todd Weston



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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

**Minutes: Conservation Commission Meeting Date:
Wednesday, February 16, 2022
Remote Meeting**

7:00 p.m. - Call to Order

The Westwood Conservation Commission meeting of Wednesday February 16, 2022, at 7:00 PM. is being held through Zoom due to the COVID-19 state of emergency and in compliance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law MGL C. 30A, §18 and the Governor's March 23 Emergency Order imposing limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89936346336?pwd=aVRjSXZ4VHdPMURWRG03WnRBZHc5UT09>

Passcode: 135347

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833 548 0276 (Toll Free) or 833 548 0282 (Toll Free) or 877 853 5257 (Toll Free) or 888 475 4499 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 899 3634 6336

The following members are present: John Rogers, chairperson, Todd Sullivan, Debra Odeh and Vesna Maneva. Members Todd Weston and Stephen David were absent. Conservation Agent, Karon Skinner Catrone and potential new member, Grace Weller were also present.

Mr. Rogers announces this meeting is being recorded.

Action Items: none

Approval of Minutes: Consideration of Minutes for Meeting of January 12, 2022 and January 26, 2022. **Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Sullivan to continue the minutes to March 9, 2022. Unanimous.**

Public Hearings:

346 Gay Street – Notice of Intent - DEP #338-0 – Eversource

Install two (2) poles and approximately 500 linear feet of conduit

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of the Notice of Intent for 346 Gay Street for the proposed installation of two (2) poles and approximately 500 linear feet of conduit, including the following:

1. WPA Form 3 – Notice of Intent submitted by Eileen Piskura of Kleinfelder of 4 Technology Drive, Suite 110, Westborough, MA 01581 dated December 21, 2021, including ten (10) pages;
2. Plan – GIS plans including two (2) sheet;

Present is Eileen Piskura of Kleinfelder representing Eversource. Eversource is proposing the installation of two utility poles and approximately 500 linear feet of conduit. This work is being proposed because Eversource is losing easement rights and the owners of 346 Gay Street have agreed to allow Eversource to run the line from the street, along the side of the driveway to avoid easement issues in the future. This project was started in October, 2021. At that time Ms. Catrone noticed the work in progress without a permit and shut down the job. Typically, the customer would be responsible for permitting on a private property but because this project was initiated by Eversource, they were responsible for permitting and there was a miscommunication internally.

This project was heard at the 1/26/22 meeting as a Request for Determination. The Commission unanimously voted to issue a positive determination which would require the submittal of a Notice of Intent.

The Commission agrees they have no further questions.

Motion made by Mr. Roger, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to issue a standard Order of Conditions. Unanimous.

375 – 395 University Avenue – Notice of Intent – DEP #338-0680 – McQuade

Request to withdraw Notice of Intent

The Commission opened the public hearing and reviewed copies of a letter requesting the withdrawal of the Notice of Intent. The letter was submitted by John Glossa of Glossa Engineering of 46 East Street, East Walpole, MA dated December 15, 2021.

Present is John Glossa representing Chuck McQuade, also present. Mr. McQuade is responsible for the maintenance of the facility.

Mr. Glossa states we are present to request the withdrawal of the Notice of Intent which was submitted to the Commission January of 2019 for clearing of small trees on the Canton Street side of the property. The Notice of Intent proposed the planting of 27 shrubs and the area then covered with a seed mix. The applicant is claiming the area has naturally revegetated over the last 3.5 years and replanting would cause disturbance to the natural revegetation.

The Commission questions Mr. Glossa as to why so much time has passed and the work has not been done.

Mr. Glossa explains that the Order was never issued. The applicant was required to go back to the Planning Board for this work. In September the applicant and Planning Board worked out a resolution. Mr. McQuade was under the impression that the Commission was also satisfied with the resolution.

Ms. Meneva states that usually after vegetation removal invasive plants appear. This is a difficult time to evaluate the area. Lowbush blueberry and other plant materials, as proposed, would work nicely on this slope and small-container stock planting would not cause much disturbance.

The Commission agrees there was a violation and we have the opportunity to bring in higher quality plants.

Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Sullivan, to officially withdraw the Notice of Intent DEP #338-0680 and require the applicant submit a new Notice of Intent to include new plantings.

Mr. Glossa asks if the town fees can be waived. The Commission agrees to waive the town fees required under the new Notice of Intent submittal.

Unanimous.

Discussion Items:

1. Consideration of Hale's proposed Conservation Restriction by Select Board and Town of Dover – Mr. Rogers states he wanted to make the Commission aware of these discussions. He called the town administrator to inquire but has not heard back. This was discussed at the January 24, 2022 select board meeting.
2. Potential Tree policy/ordinance/bylaw - <https://www.mass.gov/doc/tree-bylaw-and-ordinance-guide/download>
3. Assure Select Board's awareness of above items, clarify oversight of the Town's existing conservation lands and discuss potential Conservation Land Management Plan – clarify the Town's oversight of maintenance of conservation land. Mr. Rogers states the town should be maintaining the existing Conservation properties and discussing a Conservation Land Management Plan.
Steve Olanoff states the conservation restriction will be held by the Trustees of Hale Reservation. The Commission should be informed because this will be the biggest addition. A restriction would protect the land, which is currently private. Hale is looking for monetary help to protect this area, which the residents of Westwood and Dover been using for free. This would give them an opportunity to have an endowment to go on. A member of the Commission should have been on the task force.
<https://www.townhall.westwood.ma.us/home/showpublisheddocument/7288/637012120637130000>
4. Commissioners' observations around town and next scheduled site visits
5. Update on significant projects and other topics not reasonably anticipated
6. Actively make buyers, property owners and realtors aware of WPA, wetland ordinance and stormwater ordinance

Motion made by Mr. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Maneva, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous.

Upcoming Meeting: 3/9/22 REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Note: Agenda items and order subject to change